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**From her wedding
to a body bag in
less than 12 hours.
What happened to
Elisa Gomez?**

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STRANGEST THING YOU BELIEVED AS A CHILD: That my face actually would
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IF YOU WEREN'T A BARTENDER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?: A psychologist

FAVORITE MN EXPERIENCE: '91 World Series... Mom let me stay home from
school to watch the parade

BEST CONVERSATION YOU'VE OVERHEARD AT THE BAR:
Middle aged women talking about their sexual experiences

WHAT IS YOUR ESTABLISHMENT KNOWN FOR: World class whiskey selection

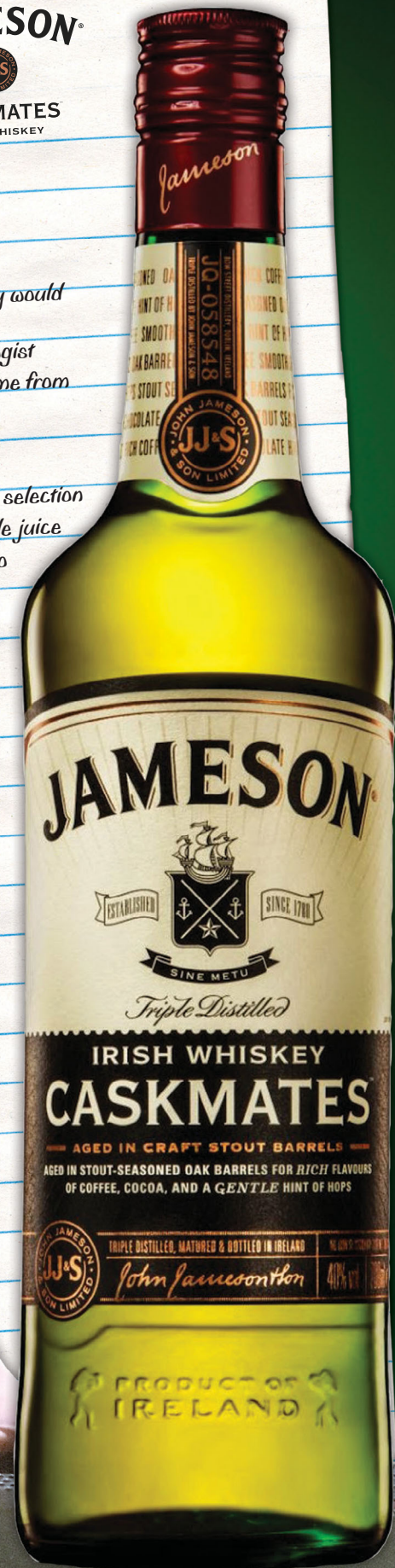
STRANGEST DRINK REQUEST YOU'VE RECEIVED: Whiskey and pickle juice

CRAZIEST THING YOU'VE SEEN FROM BEHIND THE BAR: A girl, who
seemed sober as a judge, took 2 shots of tequila and immediately
wet her pants right there on the bar stool

BEST DRINK TO CALM SOMEONE DOWN: A pitcher of beer

SAGE BARTENDER ADVICE: Don't try to pick someone up at a bar.

BARTENDER
OF THE WEEK
←
Kyle



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TILL DEATH DO US PART

From her wedding to a body bag in less than 12 hours. What happened to Elisa Gomez?
By Susan Du

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THE SHORTLIST

Here's what
a pro-Trump rally
in St. Paul looks like
citypages.com/slideshows



ADAM IVERSON

THE STAT SHEET

71,156

Number of gun carry permits
granted by Minnesota last year,
up 60 percent from 2015.

17,000

Estimated trumpeter swan
population in Minnesota,
up from 6,000 in 2010.

3,710

Estimated moose population in
Minnesota, down 58 percent from 2006.

53%

Amount of actual chicken found in
Subway's "oven roasted chicken,"
according to Canadian DNA research.
The rest was identified as soy filler.

**"Ah yes, the peaceful neo-Nazi, who should
be taken unto one's bosom and understood.
That always works so well."**

Reader Cassandra Townes responds
to "Alleged neo-Nazi meeting at
Minneapolis Institute of Art features
'heil Trump' chant, fistfight," at
citypages.com

THE TRUMP SLUMP

THAT'S WHAT THE TOURISM industry is call-
ing the alarming decline in foreign visits to
America. Since the president announced his
Muslim ban, international travel to the U.S.
is down by 17 percent.

Prevailing belief is the ban has left tourists
of all stripes to feel unwelcome. While 17
percent may not seem like a lot, the industry's
magnitude means it represents the loss of
hundreds of thousands of jobs.

In just the first week after the ban was
announced, U.S. tourism spending dropped
by \$185 million.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

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a bird-killing machine

Senate passes **SUNDAY LIQUOR
SALES**, Minnesota becomes
state for grown-ups

Now's your chance to buy a **FRANK
LLOYD WRIGHT-DESIGNED
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'TERRIFYING' DELTA FLIGHT from
Mexico to Minneapolis-St. Paul
stranded 139 people in Texas

REPUBLICAN'S INSURANCE BILL
brings back preexisting conditions,
defines contraception as abortion

LOVE INTERRUPTED

A new landlord threatens a neighborhood's affair with its coffee shop



SISTER SLUDGE COFFEE

Rent was \$625 a month when Katie, Judy, and Maggie Morris opened Sister Sludge Coffee in Minneapolis' Northrop neighborhood in 1997.

The corner caffeine shop has endured for simple reasons. Brew a tasty beverage. Pay the dairy and cup vendor COD. Don't take business too seriously.

Kim Baker was new to Minneapolis with a four-week-old colicky son when she "happened upon" the shop. The Oregon transplant couldn't help but overhear the patrons engaging in spirited yet respectful conversation. Sister Maggie was behind the counter that day. She welcomed Baker and newborn Colin by playing babysitter so mom could catch a break.

For 20 years, Sister Sludge was home to "spirited yet respectful conversation."

"She just took the baby, asked me what I wanted, and they all treated me like they'd known me forever," Baker says. "I started going every single day.... It was real impactful for me.

"What I love about it is it kind of grew with my life. And it's not the kind of place where you outgrow it. It's the kind of place that changes with you."

Her son Colin is now 13.

Sister Sludge and the neighborhood were looking forward to the next 20 years together. Yet after the death of their longtime landlord, the sisters were offered right of first refusal on the property at the corner of 46th Street and Bloomington Avenue South. But their revenue came in drips of \$2.50, while the asking price was almost \$250,000.

No problem, they thought. We're content renting. Then life happened.

Molly Miller bought the property and introduced herself at the shop. She had plans for the building consisting of four separate spaces, of which three are vacant.

Her official letter to the tenants was dated February 27. "Dear sisters," it read, "...termination of your lease [is] effective March 31, 2017."

"Demolition and remodeling" of the adjacent space, the letter continued, begins in two weeks.

"We were completely shocked," Judy says. "After that, when we weren't in such a daze of shock, we decided to call a meeting with our employees to tell them they had to look for new jobs because we had to be gone in a few weeks."

Then the sisters remembered the terms of their lease were year-to-year, not month-to-month. The 1996 contract with Dr. Bill Hansen, the original landlord, stipulates the lease runs year-to-year in conjunction with the calendar. According to Judy, it says nothing about a 30-day notice to terminate.

Miller did not respond to repeated interview requests.

Longtime patron Baker hopes the shop doesn't leave its location four blocks from her house.

"You can have great political conversations inside there, I tell you. But people are always respectful and cordial," she says. "The shop's energy is always positive. I can't even begin to describe how important a part it's been in my life. The sisters and the coffee shop are such an important part of this community." —CORY ZUROWSKI

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WALSER

No Mas

Mas Sajady offers easy salvation to those who can afford it

No one denies Mas Sajady has powers. Not even his enemies. Arrestingly handsome and neatly scruffed, Sajady's salt-and-pepper face fills the frame of his ad, big, chocolate eyes radiating soulful intensity. Post-workout selfies reveal rounded biceps and sharpened pecs bulging under his shirt. Almost all of Sajady's most devoted followers are women.

Sajady is a "beguiling, charismatic, and charming" spiritual leader, admits Theresa Nygard, a real estate agent.

In 2015, Nygard started attending Sajady's 21-day "Medihealing" program — "meditation and healing in one" — which includes two 21-minute online sessions each day for three weeks. Sajady's website appeal says this tele-healing "elevates your vibration by harnessing the power of the group."

He claims his "abilities" stem from two near-death experiences — a warehouse accident that left him with a "crushed jaw," and a near-drowning in Belize. The incidents granted the former computer programmer heightened senses, pure peace, and the power to "edit" time, "deleting" moments people wish hadn't happened, and helping them create new futures both rich and successful.

He administers to tens of thousands of people online. According to testimonials on mas-sajady.com, his mind-opening programs have fixed everything from sciatica to scoliosis to dizzy spells to shortness.

"I have GROWN 2 inches," one woman wrote.

Another went from "not having money to put gas in my car" to "earning almost \$400,000 in my business" in six months.

Aside from spiritual imbue ment, Sajady's

site lists hundreds of serious medical issues he can help with. A seven-session, four-hour "frequency clinic" will "specifically work on eliminating the frequencies of cancer and its root causes from your blueprint." A bargain at \$180.

"Healing MASTery" includes six one-hour meditation lectures and six 20-minute question-and-answer sessions by phone. Cost of enlightenment: \$1,200.

But Nygard and two other women have come to believe Sajady's taking advantage of people, producing more negative energy than positive. Each came to this realization only after spending thousands of dollars.

They've filed complaints with the Minnesota Department of Health, claiming Sajady fails to give out a state-mandated "Client Bill of Rights," a proviso informing customers that their practitioner "may not provide a medical diagnosis," among other warnings. They further claim he's practicing medicine without a license.

"My personal experience has been no progress or going backwards in all areas: health, relationships, finances," Nygard wrote.

Sajady responded with paperwork of his own. In February, he took out a restraining order against Nygard. Chanhassen cops caught her snooping in his neighborhood and taking photos of his home.

Sajady offers deeply personal explanations for why the women have turned on him. Nygard is scarred by past experiences and wasn't able to fully trust him. "Tanster," a New York "street artist," fell in love with him and got jealous when he refused to be seduced, he claims.

His style of "complementary and alternative" medicine is barely regulated. The Min-

nesota Department of Health doesn't even devote a full-time staff job to "unlicensed" healthcare, a hugely profitable industry with annual revenue of \$30 billion nationwide.

When customers willingly pay to have their future — and past — "edited" by online meditation, there's not much the government can do about it.

Sajady's carving out a nice living, according to divorce papers his wife filed in October: Tracy Sajady "does not have information as to [Mas Sajady's] income but believes it to be approximately \$1 million per year."

In that way, one of the people Sajady has managed to heal most is himself. Aside from his near-death experiences, his career as a healer also seems inspired by what accountants would call a "near-broke experience."

Back in 2009, the Sajadys filed for bankruptcy, claiming assets valued at \$571,000, and debts of almost \$1.4 million. A trustee later determined they'd attempted to hide thousands of dollars in assets, and neglected to mention the purchase of a minivan two days before filing for bankruptcy.

His website spells out his next move: He "started working on clients professionally in November of 2009. Within less than a year, he had worked on over a thousand individuals who were drawn to him by referral."

This work seems perfectly legal, says University of Minnesota bioethicist Leigh Turner, thanks to a robust disclaimer that says Sajady is "not a medical doctor," has not been evaluated by "any... government agency," and his services are "solely for your own personal education or entertainment."

Even if regulators came asking after someone like Mas Sajady, how would they prove he wasn't doing... whatever it is he's



Mike Mullen

promising?

"A lot of what [Sajady] says is so mushy and vague," Turner says, reading through the website's claims. "In a way, what he's saying is he elicits it, this power, in the individuals. So if someone doesn't react, he can say, 'The spirit didn't move you, you must not be ready for the message.'"

Turner's fellow bioethicist, Carl Elliot, offers a more withering assessment: "You don't need to be an ethicist to know this guy looks like a con man."

Asked about this assertion, Sajady said he could sense that Elliot was still dealing with issues related to his mother.

Within minutes of a phone interview, Sajady diagnosed chronic upper back pain in this columnist, suffering so subtle even I wasn't aware of it.

Under direct question about whether he's a fraud, Sajady is unfailingly kind and calm, speaking in long, flowing monologues that combine science, history, and spirituality. Even if you don't believe any of it, you're convinced he believes every word — that he really can change your life for the better. All you need is an open mind, a few hours a week, and a PayPal account. ☐

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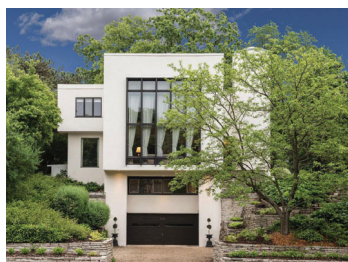
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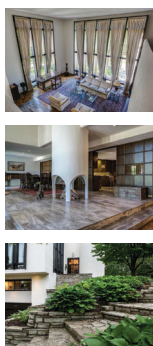
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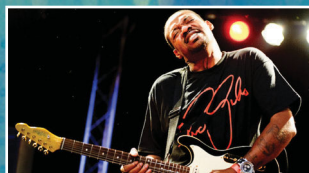
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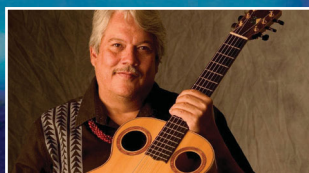
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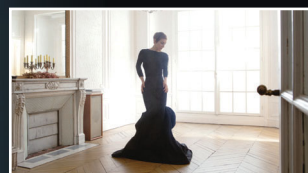
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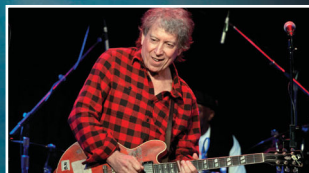
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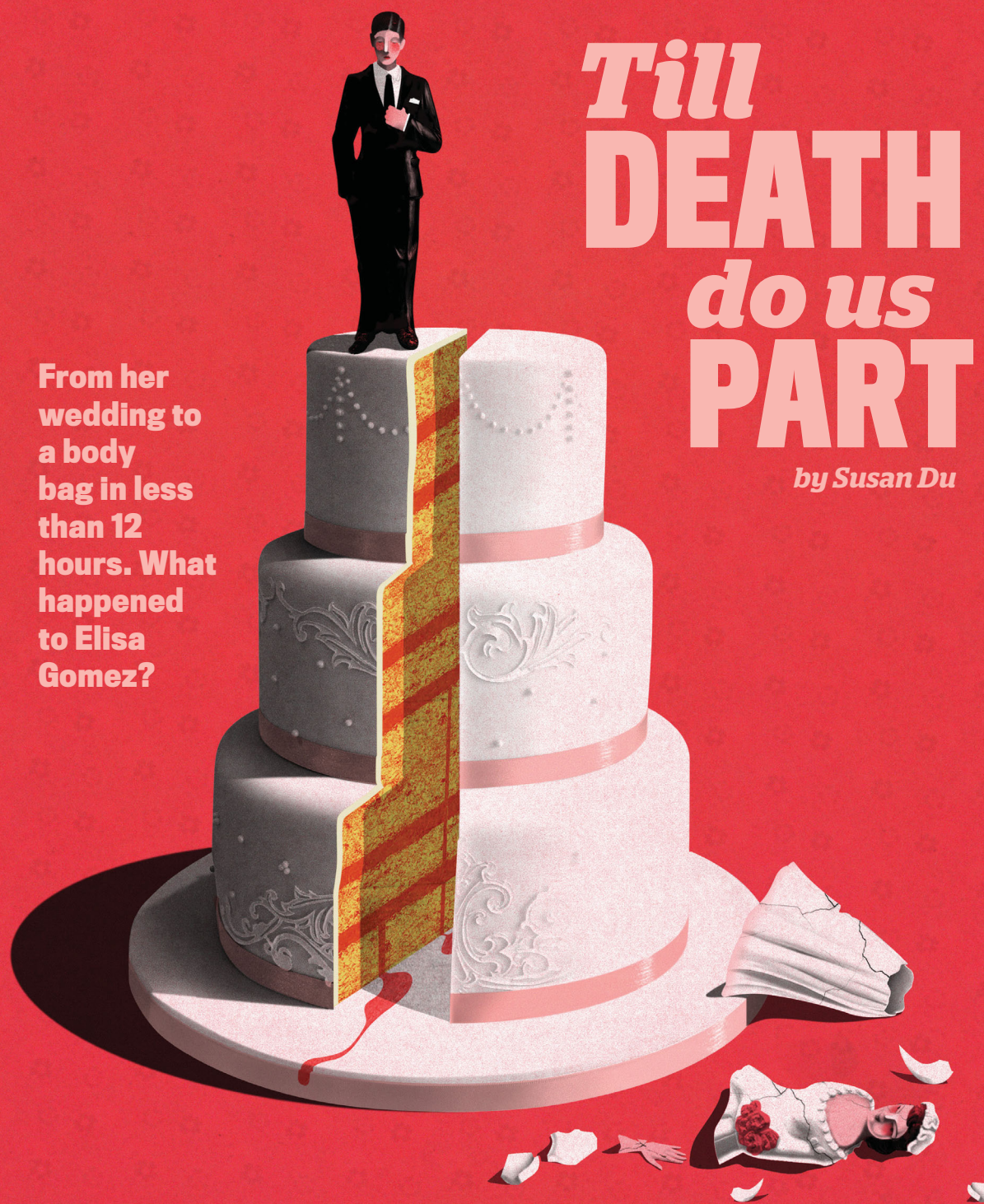
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Till DEATH do us PART

by Susan Du

From her wedding to a body bag in less than 12 hours. What happened to Elisa Gomez?



BRETT RYDER

Everybody was surprised when, on a random Monday afternoon, 47-year-old Elisa Gomez announced through a series of giddy text messages that she'd gone down to the Hennepin County Government Center to get married.

She'd met her new husband, 30-year-old Bradley Alexander, on Craigslist not two months prior. He was a mystery to all who knew her.

Only after the papers were signed did Elisa send a photo of the occasion to her

mother, Judy Hunt. It shows Elisa in an ivory dress, black hair piled up in a mound of curls, diamonds in her ears, holding Brad's face to hers in a passionate kiss. He's wearing a casual green shirt, his arms locked around her waist.

Hunt, who lives in the small northern Minnesota community of Isle, was alarmed that it had all happened so fast. Still, she understood her daughter well enough to know there was no telling the headstrong woman what to do once she'd made up her mind. Hunt could only try to express how disappointed she was not to have been at

her daughter's side.

Elisa promised a lush garden wedding still to come in April, a real spectacle with a wedding gown and bridesmaids, for all to attend.

That night, she and Brad returned to their south Minneapolis neighborhood, where they celebrated at the Cedar Inn sports bar just down the block until about one in the morning. None of Elisa's closest friends could make it. The marriage was so sudden. They all had work the next day.

Around 2:30 a.m., a neighboring family overheard an argument brewing in the

direction of Elisa's yard. The neighbors said they could hear it was a man and a woman, and as the pair wandered just outside the neighbor's curtained living room window, the woman could be heard screaming and crying while the man repeatedly yelled, "Fuck!" The neighbors called 911, but by the time officers drove by, the two had vanished.

Later that morning, around 9 o'clock, Elisa's adult daughter, Jade Gomez, arrived at her mother's house for a pre-planned breakfast date. Instead, she found the place surrounded by police cars, and watched as medical examiner personnel packed her lifeless mother into a body bag.

Later, when Elisa's mother, Judy Hunt, called Brad, she claims he had this terse explanation for her: "My friends were over, she got mad, and I found her fucking body hanging."

I.

"Her life was completely full"

Elisa Gomez was an art teacher at a Korean immersion school in St. Paul. She ran a dog-walking business on the side, making a piecemeal living while pursuing a master's in fine arts from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

She is chiefly remembered as a woman of copious causes, with a tender fondness for the poor and downtrodden.

First among them: abandoned dogs, which she rescued from overcrowded shelters throughout the United States. Her home was a menagerie of Beagles, her best friends fellow fanatics of the rescue world. Elisa was always calling her mother from the road, in the middle of spontaneous group excursions to deliver food to understocked pounds in far-flung cities. She was forever painting to benefit dog charities, or scheming to rope unwitting family members into volunteering.

She crusaded against surrogacy as well, motivated by the personal experience of carrying a baby girl for a gay couple, who later reneged on promises that she could have a role in the child's life. It had hurt her deeply.

But Elisa also had two children that she kept and raised. There was 27-year-old Jade, whose father was never in the picture, and for whom Elisa was everything. And there was 22-year-old Jess, who'd been deployed to Kuwait with the Air Force for nearly a full year. His birthday came the week after Elisa's death. She had been planning a party for his return.

Elisa's family is wholly convinced she did not kill herself. She would have never left her kids, never left her four dogs and cat, they say. And, even if everybody who was close to her overlooked some deeply disguised despair, they say she certainly would have left a letter making arrangements for her loved ones.

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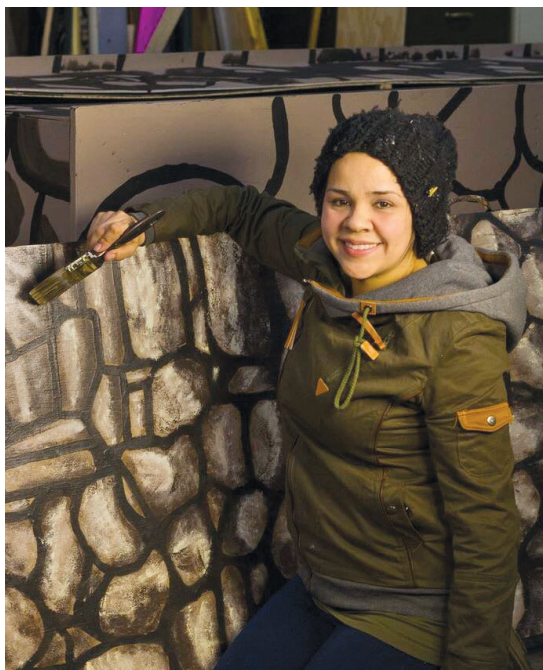
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COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

An artist by trade, Elisa Gomez filled her life with projects.

A sudden and silent departure was not Elisa's style at all, her mother says. She was a spark plug with a million projects, a princess personality type who flavored everything she did with dramatic flair.

"Her life was completely full," Hunt says. "She was never the type to spend a day in bed, feeling sorry for herself."

II.

Paradise or Parasite?

Elisa met Bradley Alexander when he responded to her Craigslist ad for some muscle to help around the house and walk dogs.

Passion erupted so instantly that it defied family and friends' comprehension. One minute Elisa was offering to drive Brad home to his then-girlfriend after work. The next, he'd packed his bags and moved in with her instead.

In Elisa's own words, as told to fellow rescuer Elle Bourdeaux through Facebook chat in mid-September, Brad was a good man with a tragic past.

"His mama abandoned him when he was 13 and he had to take care of his sister," Elisa wrote. "He had some dwi's, etc. But, I know him well and I love his heart."

Pictures of Brad began to pop up on her Facebook page. In Elisa's dreamy captures, he is planting a dotingsmooch on her cheek, looking at her dog adoringly.

Elisa's heart, which was so vulnerable to the plight of battered animals, also had a weakness for damaged men. Bourdeaux believes Elisa's desire to help ultimately drew her to Brad. Though Bourdeaux did not approve, she resolved to support her friend. She kept her messages short whenever Elisa talked about her new love,

equally afraid of stoking her enthusiasm and incurring her sometimes capricious anger.

Soon, Elisa started gushing about marriage.

Another of Elisa's closest friends, Mallory Belille, says she was apprehensive when Elisa started telling everyone she was on the hunt for a dress, that this man she'd just met wanted to marry her in the spring.

"She has big ideas that she's really in love with somebody, and then a month or two later it'll fizzle out," Belille says. "She doesn't know these things about these men, and she just believes the best in them. I kind of just expected it to fizzle out because she's very fickle."

Richard Gomez, Elisa's father, met Brad just once. They chatted briefly in his Robbinsdale home over the noise of the Vikings-Panthers game at the end of September. Elisa's mother bought him lunch one day at Southdale Center. They each found Brad unremarkable, mild in every way. They say they were much more uneasy about his lightning-paced courtship of their daughter — which seemed unnecessarily urgent, rather than romantic. Brad regularly turned to Craigslist to find odd jobs. From 2014 to 2015 he worked for a concrete and yardwork business in Lakeville where, according to the owner, Joe Posusta, his incompetence caused untold damage.

Because Brad seemed down on his luck, Posusta tried to help out by giving him work and teaching him new skills. Brad repaid him, Posusta says, by destroying the motor of an expensive leaf vacuum, disconnecting the fuel line of a Grand Am he was supposed to be repairing, and confusing the electrical wiring inside the family horse barn in such a way that every time Posusta's wife flipped the light switch, it would spark, threatening to take the entire barn and the four horses stabled there down in flames.

Then, he says, Brad started leeching off another one of his employees, a woman who took him into her home rent-free, drove him to and from work, and bought his cell phone minutes, cigarettes, and liquor. It lasted a good four months, says Posusta, until Brad started putting his hands on her.

This female employee, who declined to be named, confirmed with City Pages that Brad had been eager to bring up marriage with her weeks into their relationship. But after Brad forced her down on the bed one day with his hands around her neck, she says, she put him in the street.

She didn't involve the police, she says, to her lasting regret.

But Brad's ex-wife did. At 20 years old,

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Brad was married to a woman identified as A.J. Alexander. In 2007 he pleaded guilty to fifth-degree domestic assault, writing, "In an argument with my wife A.J.A., I struck her with my hand and caused her pain."

Two years after that, one wintry morning at about 5 a.m., A.J. turned up in the lobby of the Fillmore County Sheriff's Office with her two small children in tow. Her neck was red and swollen.

A.J. told Preston Police Chief Matt Schultz, who'd been called out of bed to meet her, of a nightmarish night. She said she and her husband, Brad, were drinking and arguing over his extramarital affairs when she began to have an anxiety attack. She was trying to call 911 when Brad grabbed her phone, removed the SIM card, and confiscated it.

According to the criminal complaint, she then retreated to her bedroom, where she lay down with her four-month-old and tried to calm herself. Brad came in around 3 a.m., demanding sex. When A.J. refused, he "tried to force it," the complaint continues. "He sat up on the edge of the bed and began choking [A.J.] by pushing on her throat with his fist and elbow and stating he wanted to kill her."

It went on that way for several minutes, according to the complaint. When Brad finally let her go, A.J. began coughing and throwing up. It was only then that he let her be and lay down on the couch.

Since A.J. had no way of calling the police, she waited until she was certain Brad was asleep before gathering the children and making her escape, she told the chief.

Brad, when he was arrested, denied all involvement and asked for a lawyer. He was ultimately convicted of domestic assault by strangulation.

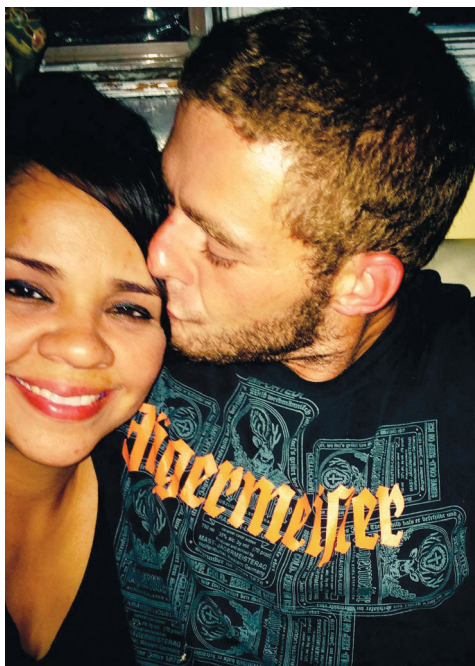
There were also four convictions for DWI, as well as a 2014 citation for animal abandonment.

Elisa must not have known about the animal abandonment, says her sister Angie Gomez. "If she had known about that, [their relationship] would've been history."

III. "I'm done"

Elisa Gomez may not have known the full breadth of Brad Alexander's history when she agreed to marry him, but there were signs that their whirlwind love was fraught with bitter moments.

One of her two roommates, Jake McDaniel, lived with Elisa only briefly before her death. But while he was there, he overheard frequent screaming matches between the couple. One came of Elisa's suspicions that Brad was cheating on her. He became furious, McDaniel recalls, and



COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

Through Elisa's lens, Brad appeared a doting boyfriend.

promised Elisa that nobody could ever love her. Cups were smashed, the backyard fence kicked in.

Elisa herself hinted at pre-marital distress. In late September, she confided to a friend, Linda Velazquez, through text, "Wedding is off," and "I am with Brad now for the moment but probably not long."

Hours later she followed up with, "We talked. I was ready to leave him. I told him if it ever happened again, I was done. He really broke my heart. He was devastated with the realization of how he behaved as he sobered up."

A week went by, and Elisa again complained of Brad getting drunk and mean. "He did it again," she told Velazquez. "I'm done."

Elisa said that while Brad was drinking, she had taken off her engagement ring.

"Your family and friends will understand," Velazquez said, trying to soothe Elisa's reluctance to call off the wedding.

"No they won't," Elisa replied, arguing that her father had been embarrassed when she broke off her last engagement, just one year prior.

While some of Elisa's friends practiced restraint, others made no effort to hide their disgust with her soon-to-be husband.

Elisa's niece Nicole Gibson recalls looking at Brad's Facebook profile and discovering someone completely at odds with what Elisa portrayed — a man who looked blazed in his profile picture, who posted memes reading, "Trust no bitch."

"I told my grandma, 'He looks like a piece of shit,'" Gibson says. She never told Elisa that, however. Gibson's mother, Elisa's sister Angie, had nothing to say about the wedding either. "Because I knew Elisa wouldn't listen to anybody, regardless.

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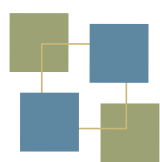
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She's very strong-headed, strong-willed, she kind of dances to the beat of her own drum, you know?"

Despite the alienation of her friends, concerns of family members, and the fights that forced them to the edge of breaking up, Elisa always found a way to accept Brad's apologies.

The day they were married at the Government Center, Elisa told her mother and her friends that it was Brad's idea to tie the knot sooner than later. Elisa said he

They even had a big trip planned to go to Costa Rica in the winter, Radivojevic says, to volunteer at a dog shelter, zip-line, and sightsee.

So he messaged Brad.

Brad complained to him about having to "let the herd of dogs out I inherited," and take care of Elisa's house. "It's all pretty much legally mine now," he said. He also told Radivojevic that he needed to go to the bank to check on Elisa's accounts because "meth heads looted her purse." He later

"I knew Elisa wouldn't listen to anybody, regardless. She's very strong-headed, strong-willed, she kind of dances to the beat of her own drum, you know?"

insisted she change her name right away. "He wanted to do it before I could run away lol," Elisa wrote in a text to her friend Bourdeaux.

Twelve hours later, she was dead.

IV.

Payable-on-death

Police spent about an hour picking up evidence from Elisa's house before packing her body away to the medical examiner's office and relinquishing all her worldly possessions to Brad.

Just a few days after he'd taken control of the house, the place was mysteriously ransacked.

Meanwhile, the medical examiner ruled her cause of death was "ligature hanging under uncertain circumstances." The manner of death — whether suicide or homicide — could not be determined.

"Cannot exclude potential injury by another person," the medical examiner wrote.

As word of Elisa's death spread through her circles, no one would readily believe she killed herself, says her niece Nicole Gibson. Independently, friends and family's thoughts turned to Brad.

Gibson messaged him on Facebook, asking for an explanation of her aunt's sudden death.

Gibson says Brad replied four days later. "I got like eight messages left. I gotta do one at a time. You're number three, k?"

Elisa's friend Chuck Radivojevic had better luck getting a response.

Radivojevic, of Miami, had been boarding a plane for Minneapolis to visit Elisa the morning of October 12 when he got a call from her cousin inviting him to the funeral. He says he was shocked, and unconvinced that the woman he knew as unrelentingly "bright" and "shiny," a "ball of sunshine," would kill herself.

confirmed that they "stole all her money."

"Her kids aren't going to get a damn thing," he lamented.

"Everything he said to me was just like red flags everywhere," Radivojevic says.

He has no doubt that if Elisa had been contemplating suicide, there would have been some sign. She would have told someone, any one of her friends whom she always notified of any trouble or drama in her life.

In the days following Elisa's death, Brad posted public messages of mourning for Elisa, anguishing over the cruel twist of fate that widowed him just hours after his marriage. He bemoaned his unhappy new obligations to plan a funeral and look after Elisa's daughter, Jade.

But the family paints a different picture. Jade and her half-brother, Jess Gomez, freshly returned from Kuwait, say they were prohibited from entering their mother's house to gather her belongings without Brad's explicit permission.

Because the children had nothing, Hunt wanted to collect what was left of Elisa's savings to give to them. She was the beneficiary of her daughter's payable-on-death bank account. But by the time she had Elisa's death certificate in hand to authorize the transfer, there was nothing left. Someone had beaten her to it, Hunt says she learned from the teller — on October 12, the day after Elisa's death.

Brad was a no-show at Elisa's funeral.

V.

The Roommates

At the time of her death, Elisa was living with Brad and two roommates, Jake McDaniel and Cherone Vestal.

McDaniel was out of town, attending his grandmother's funeral, on Elisa's wedding night. But the morning after, he says, he received an urgent email from Vestal,

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COURTESY OF THE FAMILY

who told him that Elisa had killed herself, and Brad's junkie friends had moved in.

He decided to cut his visit short and return to Minneapolis, where he requested a police escort to help him retrieve his belongings.

"Just the way that Brad was acting and just because there were people in the house that I didn't know, I didn't feel comfortable being there," McDaniel says. "Especially with the circumstances surrounding Elisa's death."

He found the house looking like the epicenter of a natural disaster. Luggage that he hadn't even had a chance to unpack from moving in had been rifled through, his things strewn in the halls.

Brad told McDaniel there had been a break-in. That made sense insofar as everything of value that belonged to McDaniel had been stolen. But McDaniel couldn't help but notice that all of Brad's valuables — his TV and his computer — had survived the raid.

The other roommate, Vestal, had lived with her two children in an upstairs room. She had been present at Elisa's wedding night celebration, and claimed to be the one who cut Elisa down from the rafters where Brad says he found her hanging.

Vestal, one of the only people who might know the truth about what happened that night, has never given a straight answer to the desperate questions of Elisa's family and friends, they say. Her stories, told in incongruous bits and pieces, have been full of inconsistencies.

At first Vestal said she was confident Elisa killed herself.

And then, when the now defunct, non-professional Minnesota Fugitive Watch Facebook page posted a photo of Brad as a nod to Elisa's family, she posted in response, "Do you know this piece of shit? He killed my friend, stole my children's clothes, toys, television. Throat punch him if you see him won't you."

The post has since vanished. City Pages contacted Vestal to explain. She refused.

VI.

Till death do us party

On December 21, long after Brad had broken off all communication with Elisa's circle of family and friends, he was seen driving erratically through the streets of north Minneapolis in Elisa's silver Jeep Wrangler.

The Jeep, which had been traveling far too fast for the icy curve of the road, smashed into two parked cars before gunning off. Two squad cars gave chase, lights blazing, for several blocks before the Jeep slid off the road and crashed headlong into a boulevard tree. Brad was arrested for fleeing police.

According to the criminal complaint, he admitted he had been running from police because he knew he had a warrant out for his arrest, for violating probation from a 2014 DWI.

He was housed in the Hennepin County

Elisa and her mother, Judy Hunt, were extremely close.

contract for deed with Elisa. Lithgow says in the 15 years he knew Elisa, he never saw her down or depressed, capable of suicide. Brad he didn't know at all.

"Nope, he didn't pay a cent on anything," Lithgow says. "He didn't pay the water bill, the contract payments, the gas bill, electric bill. There was nothing he paid. If he'd been smart he would have made some payments on the house to keep it going. He could have inherited the house."

When Hunt was finally able to enter her daughter's home, she faced the wholesale devastation of her daughter's life and work. Everything had been spilled out of the cupboards and smashed on the floor. Trash carpeted the upstairs. Broken glass littered the kitchen. The washing machine was wedged halfway up the basement stairs.

Cigarette butts, needles, and prescription medicine bottles with their labels scratched off lay out in the open. There was a severed brunette ponytail on the coffee table, and on the living room wall, an illustration of a skull and crossbones scrawled in pink with the words, "Till [death] do us party."

The stench of sewage backed up in the bathrooms permeated everything.

All that Hunt could salvage fit in the back seat of her car.

"The house was trashed, and it's like, in the back seat is Elisa... her memories are in the back seat of my car," Hunt says. "From 47 years. Oh, I fell apart."

Four months after Elisa's death, police say they're still actively pursuing the evidence necessary to close the case. Hunt's hope is waning that investigators will ever

"He trashes her house. He doesn't go to the funeral, and then the judge tells him he's sorry for his loss. I don't believe it. The guy gets away with everything."

Jail. City Pages wrote him there, but received no response.

But soon after, City Pages did receive an email from a person who did not leave a working phone number or return address, claiming "friends" said Elisa had "staged her suicide previously to show Brad how life would be without her." None of the people interviewed for this story believed the allegation.

No one lives in Elisa's house now. It was condemned because Brad never paid the bills, and the city shut off the water, according to owner Dana Lithgow, who had a

have enough proof to tell her what happened to her daughter. But in her heart, she is absolutely certain that Brad played some part.

Brad spent 44 days in jail, unable to post bail, until he decided to plead guilty to the only charges pending against him: fleeing police and violating probation. Elisa's parents and sister Maria Gomez awaited him in Judge Juan Hoyos' courtroom at the Government Center, wanting nothing other than for him to see their faces. They were joined by Posusta, Brad's former employer, as well as Brad's ex-girlfriend.



HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Brad Alexander's most recent booking photo from when he fled police to avoid arrest for violating probation

They didn't expect to run into the family, but were of the same mind.

Posusta leaned over, introduced himself to Hunt, and whispered that shortly before Elisa's death, Brad had somehow convinced her to buy up the lapsed website domain for his Lakeville businesses. Then, because Posusta had trailers wrapped with expensive vinyl signs bearing his phone number and website, Brad threatened to sue for false advertising unless he was paid \$5,000 for the rights.

"He's a little rat," Posusta says. "Do I think without a shadow of a doubt that he did something to Elisa? Absolutely. I would bet everything that I owned that he had something to do with her death."

Brad didn't see the judge or Elisa's family in court that day. His hearing was postponed until February 3, when he was released from jail and sentenced to another three years probation.

As before, he was warned to stay sober and stay out of trouble.

"Mr. Alexander, I understand that you've had a difficult time the last few months, and I am very sorry for your loss, sir," said a sympathetic Judge Hoyos. "I do hope that you continue to stay in contact with [your probation officer] and that you follow through with treatment so you can get on with your life. All right?"

"Yup," Brad answered. "Thank you."

To Elisa's mother, the leniency of the sentence, and Brad's renewed probation following four DWI convictions, is a slap in the face. The thought that he is free in Minneapolis should scare her, she says, and yet she feels nothing but fury.

"I just want to throw up," Hunt says. "It makes me ill. He trashes her house. He doesn't go to the funeral, and then the judge tells him he's sorry for his loss. I don't believe it. The guy gets away with everything." ☐



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It was the kind of place that every American has been to at least once, if not a hundred times. Vaguely Asian-style brush font was splashed across the signage; a cash register sat right up front, with a bowl full of free, cellophane-wrapped fortune cookies on the counter.

Danny Bowien had no idea how to run a restaurant, nor where he was going to do it, so he just approached a Chinese place in the Mission District of San Francisco, and said something like, “Can I serve food out of here when you’re not busy? We promise to stay out of your way and give you a cut of the cash.”

The owners agreed. Bowien and his crew hung a Chinese dragon up on the ceiling and twinkle lights in the windows and started cooking their interpretation of Chinese, infused with a lot of spice and badassery. The rest is Chinese food history. Bowien’s Mission Chinese was a sensation, one that turned into a book and then an empire. He changed the way the new generation thought about beef with broccoli and Kung Pao chicken. The story was inspiration for thousands of young chefs around America.

Bunbob Chhun and James Munson were two of them.

In their University of Minnesota dorm room at night, the duo wanted what every college kid wants: Chinese takeout. But Chhun and Munson did not want the Chinese takeout of yore with the frozen eggrolls and otherworldly pink pork product in the fried rice. They wanted something

fresher. They wanted their favorites without the mystery meat.

Meanwhile, Ming’s Palace occupied the corner of East 40th Street and Minnehaha Avenue in Longfellow for 20 years. Perry and Meimi Wong opened it after closing another Chinese restaurant, House of Lai in Deephaven. It was Perry’s dream to have the restaurant, and the rest of the family fell in line to help out, as was expected.

“We just worked, and didn’t complain about it too much,” says Vanessa Wong, oldest daughter of Perry and Meimi. While she worked at Ming’s for “almost half” of her life, the day Chhun came knocking was a major blessing for the family.

Vanessa remembers it well. “I was having lunch with my mom and [Chhun] came in and said he was looking for a restaurant to lease. I told him it was very hard in this neighborhood. That it was mostly retail

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and very few restaurants.”

After he left, Vanessa told her mother what Chhun had asked.

“Why didn’t you tell him this place?!” her mother wanted to know. After decades running the kitchen, it was time for the Wongs to retire.

The rest happened quickly. Chhun and Munson signed the lease (the Wongs owned the building but didn’t know what they planned to do with it without a restaurant), and soon, the old lunch buffet was being moved to make room for a shiny new bar; the pink walls were being updated with arty bamboo-patterned wallpaper.

“People were very sad,” says Vanessa.



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James Munson, Meimi and Perry Wong, Bunbob Chhun

COURTESY OF DUMPLING

“Some people cried.” But Perry and Meimi had taken only one vacation in 20 years. Besides, the people of Longfellow didn’t have to cry for long because: Dumpling.

These transitions are not always easy. The occasional old regular, caught unaware, will sometimes plop down and order a shrimp fried rice. Dumpling doesn’t do home delivery, as the Wong children did, loyally jumping in the car and dropping off grease-dappled bags of wings, sesame chicken, and chow mein to about 30 different households on a busy night shift while their parents cooked.

Dumpling does things differently. But — and this is important — not too differently.

The pink glow from a chic neon window sign sets the tone for the urbane neighborhood spot. Walk in on any given night, and the bartender will be mixing up low-proof cocktails (the neighborhood zoning means only beer and wine) like a Mei Mei’s Collins with sake, snap peas, lime, and Squirt. The bathrooms are wallpapered with cheeky, artist-rendered fruits and vegetables. There is a cauliflower steak on the menu.

Okay, so there may be a cauliflower steak, but Dumpling is still a neighborhood Chinese restaurant through and through. If you have an itch for some good old Cantonese takeout, they can scratch it for you here.

Eggrolls are Chhun’s family recipe, gold, crisp, tight little two-or-three bite flutes filled with ground pork, carrot, onion, and mung bean thread. “Very simple,” he says, but all the flash is in the elbow grease. “It can be a process,” he says. The popular bite arrives five to an order for \$7.

Or try their namesake dumplings, also handmade and outstanding, and available in pork, vegetable, and the occasional seasonal flavor like winter melon. These too are understated: The ideal, bite-sized little coin purse is seared to precision on

one side, never over- or under-stuffed or broken. They’re miniature labors of love that you feel lucky to be able to eat.

The “old-school Asian vibe” was their dream, say the partners, and they never want to alienate the neighborhood with too many new-school flourishes. So guess what? Here you can still get sesame chicken, orange shrimp, and even Ming’s Wings, the same beloved recipe the Wongs sold thousands of orders of. The family lovingly passed them on to Dumpling along with the keys. Perry also sometimes drops by the kitchen to school them on proper lo mien.

But here, orange sauce uses real orange and chicken is cooked gently, to an almost forkable tenderness. Dishes are thoughtfully deconstructed, not to be ironic, but because it makes sense. The inherent deep-fried crispness of sweet and sour shrimp is too often ruined once tossed in the sticky sauce. Why not just put the sauce off to the side in a ramekin, and cook the peas and carrots separately so they retain their springy freshness? Done.

Occasionally Dumpling veers too far off course. An Asian take on classic beef stroganoff didn’t improve or even stand up to the classic with its lack of sauce or broth. And the beef and broccoli with flank steak and gai lan (Chinese broccoli) ate like little more than a plain steak with a side of green veg and rice. In an effort to keep the meat on the rare side, it arrived too underdone.

But these slight misses are all forgiven when diving into the elegant wonton noodle soup, with clear, fragrant broth, dainty handmade chicken wontons, and slim Hong Kong noodles swirling under the surface. It’s herbal, understated, and pure-tasting, the kind of thing you always wished you could get at your corner Chinese joint.

And now you can.



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EXCLUSIVE:

Register to Win 2 Tickets
to Joe Bonamassa at
the Orpheum Theatre
Friday, March 17th!

www.citypages.com/free/JoeBonamassa

FRI // MARCH 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT KIP'S

Kip's Authentic Irish Pub | 10am-1am
Celebrate St. Paddy's Day at Kip's Irish Pub
in St. Louis park with live music featuring
an Irish band, beer and delicious food.
Stop over to our Street team booth for
green beads and other prizes!

THU // MARCH 23

LAS- CAFETERAS

The Ordway | 7:30pm
Stick around after the performance for a
post-show City Pages party in the Target
Atrium with the Las Cafeteras artists,
including cash bar and our prize wheel!

Find the Street Team
cruising in their flashy
2014 Kia Soul!
#WheresHamilton



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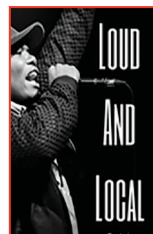
FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:
citypages.com/promotions/join-street-team

CITY PAGES BEST OF
THE TWIN CITIES PART
THURSDAY, APRIL 27TH | ORCHESTRA HALL
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
BESTOF.CITYPAGES.COM

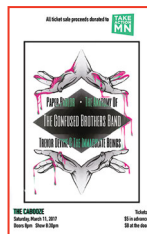
CABOOZE

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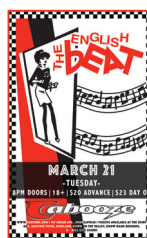
LOUD & LOCAL!
FEAT. WILLY ARQ, BREEZY,
COVENANT & MORE!
MARCH 10



THE CONFUSED BROTHER BAND
TAKE ACTION! BENEFIT
SHOW W/ PAPER PARLOR
& MORE!
MARCH 11



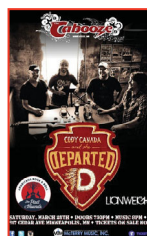
NUISANCE
w/ VAUDEVILLE, STRATE
JAK IT, ANTI STAR &
PIRANHA
MARCH 17



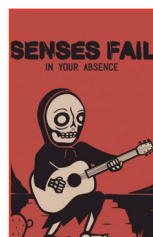
CABOOZE PRESENTS
THE ENGLISH BEAT!
w/ SPECIAL GUEST
MARCH 21



CABOOZE & LIVE NATION PRESENT
LOCASH
MARCH 23



CODY CANADA AND THE DEPARTED
w/ RADIO BIRDS
MARCH 25



CABOOZE & LIVE NATION PRESENT
SENSSES FAIL
W/ COUNTERPARTS,
MOVEMENTS, & MORE!
MARCH 29



FKJ
AKA: FRENCH
KIWI JUICE!
APRIL 4

UPCOMING

- 3/8LEOPRESENTS.COM **Micky Avalon** w/ BOTZY, TY DAVIS & AP LIFTED & MC RENTZ
- 3/9 LEOPRESENTS.COM **Architects** w/ STRAY FROM THE PATH, & MAKE THEM SUFFER
- 3/15 **Northern Medicine** w/ RED EYE RUBY & DOC
- 3/18 CABOOZE & LN PRESENT **The Opiuo Band** w/ SPECIAL GUEST TBA
- 3/22 LEOPRESENTS.COM **OG Maco** w/ YOUNG GREATNESS, LEVI CARTER & MORE!
- 3/24 LEOPRESENTS.COM **Despised Icon & Carnifex** w/ FALLUJAH & MORE!
- 3/25 **Cody Canada and the Departed** w/ RADIO BIRDS
- 3/30 **The Rumours** ALBUM RELEASE TOUR w/ ONCE AROUND & THE VON TRAMPS
- 3/31 **The People Brothers Band** w/ MARK JOSEPH & THE AMERICAN SOUL & MORE!
- 4/8 CABOOZE & JF MUSIC PRESENT **Stevie Ray Vaughan** TRIBUTE SHOW
- 4/15 CABOOZE & LN PRESENT **Super Duper Kyle** w/ SUPERDUPERBRICK, & COUSIN STIZZ
- 4/20 CABOOZE & LN PRESENT **Thursday** w/ CITIES AVIV, TOUCHE AMORE & BASEMENT
- 5/4 **The Meat Puppets** w/ MIKE WATT, & THE JOM & TERRY SHOW
- 5/12 CABOOZE & FIRST FLEET PRESENT **The Lacs!**

TICKET OUTLETS

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JOE BONAMASSA

LIVE IN CONCERT

ORPHEUM THEATRE

FRI, MAR 17TH
SAT, MAR 18TH

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:

ticketmaster®

A LIST

FRIDAY Chris Rock returns to standup **P. 28** **SATURDAY** Gamut Gallery celebrates glitch art **P. 29** **TUESDAY** Insight lecture series continues at the Walker **P. 30**

WEDNESDAY 3.8

COMEDY

JAKE JOHANNSEN

ACME COMEDY CO.

"Man, I wish I had a good story," says comedian Jake Johannsen when asked about what he's been up to since his last visit to the Twin Cities. "It wasn't really my dream to spend my career going from club to club doing my show, but it's kind of what I've done, and I'm enjoying it." Many comedy fans consider Johannsen to be one of our greats, and he's an inspiration to younger standups. "I feel there are more great comedians now than ever," he says. "There are just really solid creative comics out there. We're kind of moving away from the idea that a comedy show is something you give tickets away for to get people to buy booze and food... Hopefully, a comedy show is something you pay money for and people want to see what you have to offer." Always an adept storyteller, Johannsen these days is talking about how hard it is to be a person. "We're all just waking up every day and struggling to get our shit done so we can get to that little desert of what we want to do each day." 18+. 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. \$15-\$18. 708 N. First St., Minneapolis; 612-338-6393. **Through Saturday** —P.F. WILSON

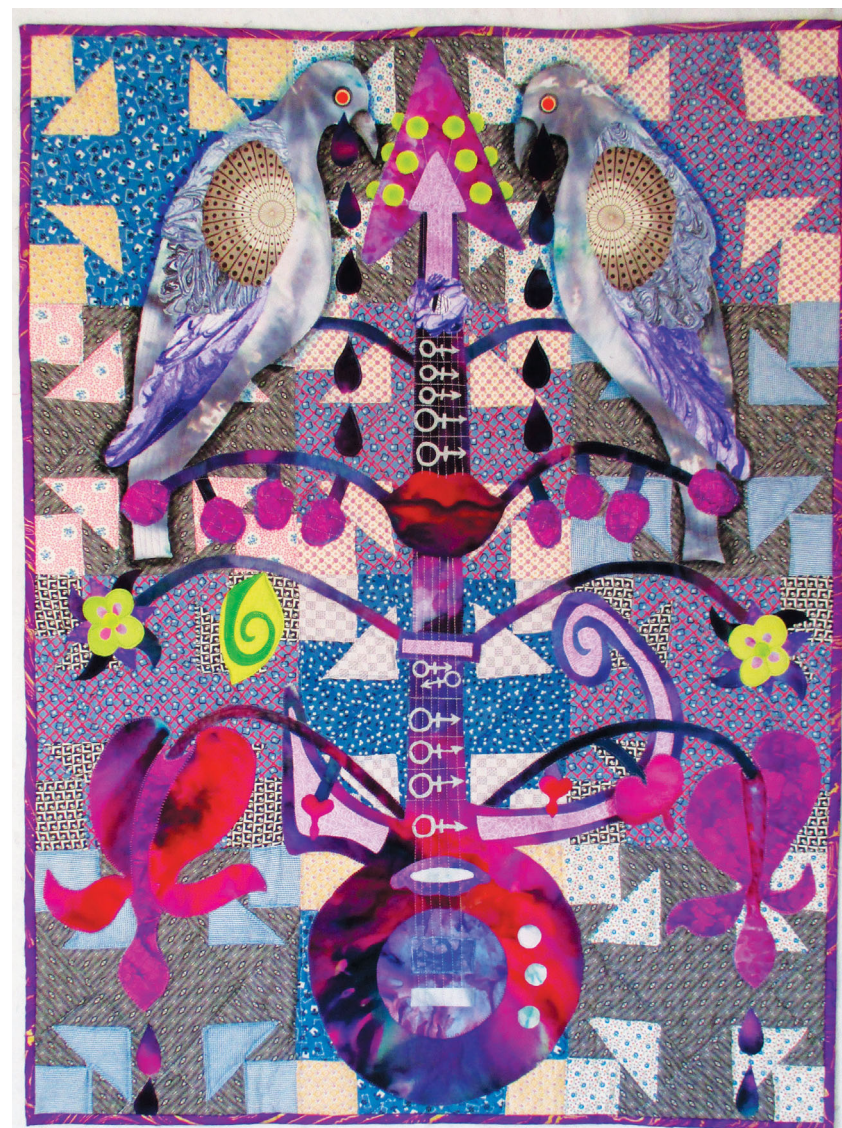
THURSDAY 3.9

COMEDY

JON RINEMAN

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

Jon Rineman began his professional career in comedy writing on a freelance, per-joke basis for *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. He landed that gig after a family friend, who was mutual friend of Leno's, passed some of Rineman's jokes to the host. "I thought I'd get maybe a production assistant job or maybe an internship." Two days later, Leno called. "I was at my parents' house, and he called at 11 p.m. one night," Rineman



Quilts celebrate the story of Prince at the Textile Center.

MISTY M. COLE, DISTELFUNK

remembers. "We talked, and he liked me and started using my stuff on *The Tonight Show*." Rineman eventually contributed to *SNL*'s Weekend Update before being hired permanently by Jimmy Fallon. Working as a writer for TV has changed his standup. "It's made me less observational," he says. "You have to dig deeper." Instead of current events and such, onstage Rineman is more apt to talk about family and relationships. "I shouldn't

say this when I'm trying to promote a standup appearance," he says, "but I never really look forward to doing standup. It's like going to the gym. But once I'm up there it's great and I feel really great afterwards." 18+; 21+ later shows. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$15-\$22. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

ART/GALLERY

ROOTS TO HEALING

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

One of the keys to health and longevity, many experts agree, is consuming a plant-based diet. Done. But plants are also essential ingredients in nearly every aspect of lives, including our vices (where do you think booze and cigarettes come from?), our clothing (we're not talking about Quiana), and medicine (including cannabis). In this exhibition, organized by the College of Biological Sciences Conservatory, plant-based remedies created in Minnesota are on display. Focusing on just several key plants (including cannabis, but also the lovely and rare Lady's Slipper orchid), the show examines the historical, cultural, scientific, and economic value these plants — having taken root in Minnesota — bring to our lives. During the opening, two performance companies, Ananya Dance Theatre and LOTT, will showcase original compositions created in honor of, and inspired by, the exhibition. See them perform on Thursday, March 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. Free. 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul; 612-625-5000. **Through January 2018** —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

FESTIVAL/FILM

THE NINTH ANNUAL HITCHCOCK FILM FESTIVAL

RIVERVIEW THEATER/HEIGHTS THEATER

Carrying on a popular tradition, the ninth annual Hitchcock Film Festival returns to cast some sinister shade over the spring season. Of the seven featured films, *Rear Window* (1954) and *Vertigo* (1958) offer iconic performances from Jimmy Stewart as a man becoming increasingly unhinged over an all-consuming obsession with, respectively, the peculiar behavior of his neighbors and the identity of an enigmatically unobtainable woman. Stewart also lends supporting weight to *Rope* (1948) as a professor used as a pawn by two former students in a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 ►

THE MAINROOM

BEST CONCERT VENUE, BEST CONCERT, BEST CONCERT (TOURING), BEST CLUB DJ - City Pages 2016

THURSDAY, MARCH 9



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE GROWLERS
CITY CLUB SPRING
TOUR 2017
\$20/\$25/7:30PM/18+

FRIDAY, MARCH 10



93X AND CITY PAGES PRESENT
THE 2017 MOCKSTROSITY
TOUR STARRING
MAC SABBATH
WITH **METALACHI**
OKILLY DOKILLY
METALLAGHER
\$10/\$15/8PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15



COLD WAR KIDS
JOUR
\$27/7:30PM/18+

THURSDAY, MARCH 16



GO 95.3 PRESENTS
VINCE STAPLES
THE LIFE AQUATIC TOUR
KILO KISH
\$20/\$25/6PM/ALL AGES

FRIDAY, MARCH 17



P.O.S
ZULUZULUU
INVISIBLE BOY
\$15/\$18/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, MARCH 18



PASSENGER
THE PAPER KITES
\$32/\$35/6PM/ALL AGES

TUESDAY, MARCH 21



ANDREW MCMAHON
IN THE WILDERNESS
ATLAS GENIUS
NIGHT RIOTS
\$28/\$30.50/6PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22



PORTUGAL. THE MAN
HDBEENDOPE
\$25/7PM/18+

THURSDAY, MARCH 23



RAILROAD EARTH
WINTER TOUR 2017
BILLY STRINGS
\$22.50/\$25/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, MARCH 24



FIRST AVENUE, SMA,
AND SIRIUSXM JAM ON PRESENT
GALACTIC
THE HIP ABDUCTION
\$26/\$28/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, MARCH 25



DJ KEEZY PRESENTS
THE KLITUATION
CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S MONTH
COCO & BREEZY,
SHANNON BLOWTORCH,
BDOTCROC, SARAH WHITE,
MANCHITA, MARIA ISA,
LADY MIDNIGHT, THE LIONESS,
VIE BOHEME, K.RAYDIO
\$10/\$12/9:30PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29



SON VOLT
ANDERS PARKER
\$20/7PM/18+

SATURDAY, APRIL 1



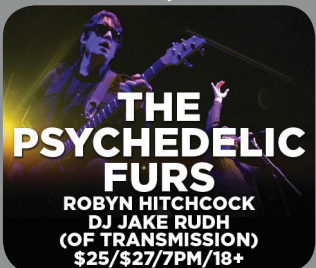
89.3 THE CURRENT, CITY PAGES,
AND ELECTRIC FETUS PRESENT
TRANSMISSION:
SIXTEEN CANDLES
FT. DJ JAKE RUDH
CELEBRATING 16 YEARS
OF TRANSMISSION AND
47 YEARS OF FIRST AVENUE
\$10/\$12/9PM/18+

SUNDAY, APRIL 2



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
FOXYGEN
GABRIELLA COHEN
\$16/\$18/7PM/18+

THURSDAY, APRIL 6



THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS
ROBYN HITCHCOCK
DJ JAKE RUDH
(OF TRANSMISSION)
\$25/\$27/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, APRIL 7



ELEPHANT REVIVAL
DEAD HORSES
\$15/8PM/18+

SATURDAY, APRIL 8



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
MARGO PRICE
COLTER WALL
\$25/8PM/18+

FRIDAY, APRIL 14



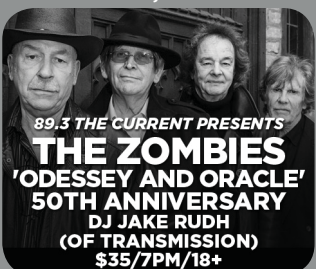
THE BIG WU
25 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
\$15 EARLY BIRD/\$20/\$25 DOS/\$50 VIP
7PM/18+

SATURDAY, APRIL 15



FIRST AVENUE AND
TC PRESENTS
MANIC FOCUS
THESPVCEAGE
\$15/8PM/18+

MONDAY, APRIL 17



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE ZOMBIES
'ODESSEY AND ORACLE'
50TH ANNIVERSARY
DJ JAKE RUDH
(OF TRANSMISSION)
\$35/7PM/18+

TUESDAY, APRIL 18



89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
THE NEW PORNOGRAPHERS
WAXAHATCHEE
\$33/7PM/18+

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19



SLEEP
MONO
\$25/9PM/18+

THURSDAY, APRIL 20



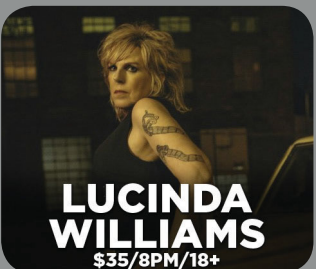
MAYDAY PARADE
'A LESSON IN ROMANTICS'
10TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
KNUCKLE PUCK, MILESTONES
\$25/5:30PM/ALL AGES

TUESDAY, APRIL 25



SILVER SUN PICKUPS
KIEV
\$28/\$30/7PM/18+

FRIDAY, APRIL 28



LUCINDA WILLIAMS
\$35/8PM/18+

FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON PERFORMERS AND COMPLETE SHOW LISTINGS VISIT FIRST-AVENUE.COM
BUY TICKETS AT THE DEPOT TAVERN (11AM - 1AM SUN-THURS, AND 11AM-2AM FRI & SAT), ETIX.COM, OR BY CALLING 1-800-514-3849.
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FIRST AVENUE & 7th St entry

ALSO COMING TO THE MAINROOM

- 4/29 **AMERICAN FOOTBALL** w/ S. CAREY, AERO FLYNN 18+
5/01 & 02 **VULFPECK** 18+
5/03 **TESTAMENT** w/ SEPULTURA, PRONG 18+
5/05 **LAURA MARLING** w/ VALLEY QUEEN 18+
5/06 **GEAR DADDIES** w/ SAM LLANAS (FORMERLY OF BODEANS) 18+
5/12 **THE BLACK ANGELS** w/ A PLACE TO BURY STRANGERS 18+
5/13 **COHEED AND CAMBRIA - NEVERENDER 'GAIBSIV'**
w/ THE DEAR HUNTER 18+
5/19 **THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OK COMPUTER CELEBRATION - A NIGHT OF RADIOHEAD**
FT. OK COMPUTER PERFORMED BY GUCCI LITTLE PIGGY WITH
SPECIAL GUESTS TBA, IN RAINBOWS PERFORMED BY THE TEDDY
HOLIDAYS, KID A PERFORMED BY KID VILLAIN 18+
5/20 **TINA AND THE B-SIDES** w/ HIGH UP 18+
5/21 **BONOBO** 18+
5/23 **JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE** w/ THE SADIES 18+
5/26 **MICHAEL KIWANUKA** w/ CLOVES ALL AGES
6/01 **MARIAN HILL** w/ OPIA 18+
6/15 **POKEY LAFARGE** 18+
8/07 **SYLVAN ESSO** w/ FLOCK OF DIMES 18+

7TH ST ENTRY

- 3/08 **GILLIGAN MOSS** w/ STATIC PANIC 18+
3/09 **DEF KITH, LIVING BODY, LOTT, AND POOLBOY** 18+
3/10 **THE BIG BANG** FT. J. PLAZA, BABY SHEL, CASHINOVA,
SIEED BROWN, DJ RICH LEE & NUG MAMA 18+
3/11 **CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH** w/ STEADY HOLIDAY 18+
3/12 **EISLEY** w/ CIVILIAN, BACKWARDS DANCER 18+
3/13 **SHOT MEMORY, HEART TO GOLD, AUTUMN KID,**
AND THE JEFFERTONS 18+
3/14 **THE REVENGE WEDDING DEBUT SHOW AND**
SXSW TOUR KICKOFF w/ NORTH OF GRAND, ELEGANZA! 18+
3/15 **MILD MANNER RECORD RELEASE SHOW** w/ HOMEBREW,
WEATHERED, THE EMPTY SETS 18+
3/16 **ALEX DEZEN (OF THE DAMNWELLS) AND HIS BAND**
w/ MIKE DUNN, MO 18+
3/17 **WELLNESS** w/ COLIN CAMPBELL & THE SHACKLETONS,
TONY PEACHKA 18+
3/18 **LUNCH DUCHESS, GOOD LUCK FINDING IRIS,**
MAKR IS SIER, AND SASS 18+

TURF CLUB

- 3/08 **RUN WESTY RUN** w/ YE YE POW 21+
3/09 **LAZYLIGHTNING420** FT. ERIK BERRY (TRAMPLED BY TURTLES)
AND MARC GARTMAN (TWO MANY BANJOS) PERFORMING
GRATEFUL DEAD'S 11/8/69 LIVE AT THE FILLMORE w/ TEAGUE ALEX 21+
3/10 **AARON GORTON AND THE DOT DOT DOT**
w/ DIVES, FIRST DATES 21+
3/11 **MOVING UNITS PRESENTS THE SONGS OF JOY DIVISION**
w/ VIKTOR FICTION, SOVIET 21+
3/12 **ADRIAN BELEW POWER TRIO** w/ SAUL ZONANA 21+
3/15 **CHUCK PROPHET & THE MISSION EXPRESS**
w/ SAM CASSIDY 21+
3/16 **THE IKE REILLY ASSASSINATION** 21+
3/17 **ALL THEM WITCHES** w/ IRATA 21+
3/18 **ASHLEY GROVES, LENA ELIZABETH, AND MAYA ELENA** 21+
3/19 **TUNES TRIVIA** w/ ADAM LEVY, LORI BARBERO 21+ (FREE EVENT)
3/22 **TRIVIA FOR CHEATERS A FUNDRAISER FOR MID-CONTINENT**
OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE HOSTED BY JANA SHORTAL 21+
3/23 **DIRT TRAIN, THE FONTANELLES, AND HOLY HOOTENANNERS** 21+

For show announcements, updates, set times, giveaways, and more:

@FIRSTAVENUE /FIRSTAVENUE @FIRSTAVENUE FIRST-AVENUE

UPCOMING SHOWS AT OTHER VENUES



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
WE THE KINGS
w/ CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR,
PLAID BRIXX, ASTRO LASSO
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$25/\$79 VIP/5:30PM/ALL AGES



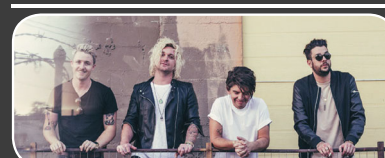
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8
89.3 The Current presents
JENS LEKMAN
w/ LISA/LIZA
at FINE LINE
\$20/7PM/18+



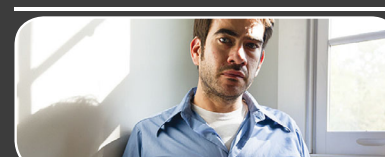
SATURDAY, MARCH 11
Palace Theatre and 89.3 The Current present
THE JAYHAWKS
w/ THE CACTUS BLOSSOMS,
THE CLOAK OX
at PALACE THEATRE
\$30/7PM/18+



SATURDAY, MARCH 11
SAVE FERRIS
NEW SOUND TOUR 2017
w/ UMBRELLA BED, BABY BABY
at FINE LINE
\$20/\$35 RESERVED BALCONY
8PM/18+



SUNDAY, MARCH 12
THE GRISWOLDS
w/ DREAMERS, 90% ELVES
at TRIPLE ROCK
\$18/6PM/ALL AGES



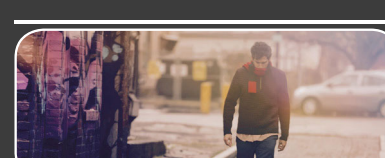
MONDAY, MARCH 13
First Avenue and The Cedar present
AN EVENING WITH
NOAM PIKELNY
at THE CEDAR
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TUESDAY, MARCH 14
89.3 The Current presents
ALLAH-LAS
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\$15/8PM/18+



SATURDAY, MARCH 18
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EMMA RUTH RUNDLE at Fine Line
3/29 **AGNES OBEL** w/ ETHAN GRUSKA at The Cedar
3/30 **THEY.** at Fine Line
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A-LIST

ART/GALLERY

ART KILLS KANCER

SOO VISUAL ARTS CENTER

While it might be hard to imagine, public service announcements don't have to be lame. For proof, look no further than the Art Kills Kancer poster project. The series peddles important prevention and early detection information, but with an edge: One poster features a pair of neon lungs that are festooned with tumor-like black flowers (don't smoke!), while another work featuring boob silhouettes in a variety of shapes and sizes makes it hard for you to forget your annual. It's all part of a campaign against the "Hateful Eight," cancers that can be prevented with lifestyle adjustments or early detection and treatment. At the opening party from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 9, Lori Barbero will DJ. Posters will be for sale throughout the weekend. Free. 2909 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-871-2263. **Through March 12 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**



SARAH MCNERNEY, ANNE ULKU

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

ghastly experiment to prove amoral superiority. Nefarious deeds similarly escalate in *Psycho* (1960) when a desperate secretary absconds with a client's money only to be fatefully detoured to a remote hotel run by a skittish young man and his domineering mother. Aberrant desires are rendered even more disquieting by *Frenzy* (1972), a late-period thriller now ranked among Hitchcock's most chilling works. *The Wrong Man* (1956) spins a tale of unjust persecution made all the more inescapable through the film's uncharacteristic starkness. The sense of a waking nightmare is even more pronounced in *The Birds* (1963), wherein a quaint seaside town suffers an inexplicable avian uprising. Visit trylon.org/series/169 for dates and showtimes. \$8. Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-729-7369. Heights Theater, 3951 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights; 612-424-5468. **Through May 8 —BRAD RICHASON**

ART/GALLERY

COMMEMORATING HIS PURPLE REIGN: A TEXTURAL TRIBUTE TO PRINCE

TEXTILE CENTER

This April marks the one-year anniversary of the death of Prince.

At the Textile Center, folks will be celebrating his life through quilts. The juried show, curated by African-American quilt historian Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi, will showcase the work of 24 quilters from all over the country, including members of the Women of Color Quilting Network. While traditional quilts tend to be thought of as wholesome, makers will be getting a little more feisty and fabulous to honor the Purple One. The collection includes a piece featuring the lyrics to "Erotic City," a lovely tribute to "Purple Rain," and a few works festooned with doves, guitars, and glittering jewels. The opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, March 9, features a presentation from Mazloomi. 3000 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis; 612-436-0464. **Through April 29 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER**

ART/GALLERY

INES LEADING NOWHERE

QUARTER GALLERY

The University of Minnesota's Quarter Gallery debuts its RCA Emerging Artist Program this week by featuring pieces from three up-and-coming female artists based in the Twin Cities. "Lines Leading Nowhere" highlights the work of Lauren Flynn, Rose Sexton Johnson, and Kate Sheldon. Flynn moved to the Twin Cities in 2013, and has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 ►



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A-LIST



PHOTO COURTESY OF POSTCOMMODITY AND BOCKLEY GALLERY

CONTINUED FROM THURSDAY ►

exhibited in a number of local galleries. Currently a Jerome Resident at Highpoint Center for Printmaking, she also helps run Yeah Maybe gallery in Minneapolis. Multimedia artist Sexton Johnson explores psychological and physical spaces through an architectural treatment of a variety of materials. Sheldon is a painter, and also co-founded White Page gallery. There will be an opening reception from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, March 9 (an artists' talk is at 5 p.m.). Free. Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-625-8096.

Through March 25 —SHEILA REGAN

FRIDAY 3.10

COMEDY

CHRIS ROCK

ORPHEUM THEATRE

Have you ever heard of this Chris Rock guy before? Apparently he's pretty good. For the first time in nearly a decade, the legendary comedian/actor/director/author is coming to town for three shows as part of his Total Blackout tour. Given the current state of affairs in the world, it's not surprising that Rock has found the inspiration to take the stage once again. This is an opportunity to see the comedian in his element, where he began his career. That's a rarity, as he's been spending recent years on the big screen and behind the camera directing. Last year when Rock took on hosting duties for the Academy Awards, fans saw that he not only still has what it takes to perform

live, but has become better with age. 8 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday. \$49.50-\$125. 910 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-339-7007.

Through Sunday —PATRICK STRAIT

ART/GALLERY

POSTCOMMODITY

BOCKLEY GALLERY

Two years ago, artist collective Postcommodity subverted the U.S./Mexico border by setting up giant "scare-eye" balloons, the kind typically used by farmers and gardeners to deter birds, along the border between Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora. The installation sent a strong message about walls and borders while also reclaiming the eye symbol's Native origins. This week, three members of the collective — Raven Chacon, Cristóbal Martínez, and Kade L. Twist — will stop by the Walker Art Center to discuss the piece, titled *Repellent Fence*, and how they got communities involved in the project. The opening reception for the show takes place at Bockley Gallery from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 10, and an artists' panel will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 11 at the Walker Art Center. Both events are free. 2123 W. 21st St., Minneapolis; 612-377-4669. **Through April 15 —SHEILA REGAN**

ART/GALLERY

WE THE PEOPLE

2001 A SPACE

"We the People," a new exhibition from Loretta Bebeau, was a long time coming. It started back in 2011, while Bebeau was teaching at an alternative

The art of
technological
failure



ELENA ROMENKOVA, GIRLZZZ

school where she met many immigrant teenagers who didn't remember much of their mother tongue or didn't speak it at all. Bebeau began "collecting languages" around town, from which she made nine paintings. In the summer of 2013, during Open Streets Northeast, she set up a table and invited people to trace their hands. The experience was so much fun that she repeated it the two subsequent summers. In 2015, she made two large paintings incorporating both the languages and the hands for the Hennepin Avenue storefront project Made Here. It was then that she realized she could create a whole new body of work from this theme, the result being five large-scale paintings that incorporate the languages, the handprints, and new immigration-inspired drawings. "This was an effort to document the languages that make up our community," she says. "It was a project meant to unify and celebrate the diversity." There will be an opening reception from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday, March 10. 2001 Fifth St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-623-3138.

Through March 31 —ERICA RIVERA

SATURDAY 3.11

ART/FESTIVAL

GLITCH ART IS DEAD: MINNEAPOLIS

GAMUT GALLERY

Sometimes mistakes can be inspiring and beautiful. This is part of the idea behind glitch art, a quirky art form that requires something to go wrong before creativity begins. When a computer freezes or the screen becomes oddly pixelated, most of us see headaches. For glitch artists, this type of malfunction is an opportunity for inspiration. These technological fails can be saved in a

document for further manipulation, or turned into a sound file to be sampled. If you want to go old school, tape a bunch of magnets to a VCR, pop a tape in, and see what happens. This weekend at Gamut Gallery, over 90 artists from around the world will share the fruits of their intentionally error-filled efforts. There will also be workshops for those who would like to learn how to make their own art. The opening reception from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, will include music from DJs, while the closing reception from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, March 31, features live glitch-art music curated by Alex Kmett and visuals by Steve Killingbeck. Free; \$5 opening reception; \$10 closing reception. 717 S. 10th St., Minneapolis; 612-367-4327.

Through April 1 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

THEATER

GOODBYE CRUEL WORLD

THE CRANE THEATER

In playwright Robert Ross Parker's exceptionally dark farce *Goodbye Cruel World*, the haplessly unemployed Semyon Semyonovich Podsekalinikov announces his intention to end his life. Rather than eliciting concern, Semyon's suicidal declaration leads to a progression of outlandish advice for following through with killing himself. Though these callous urgings are voiced by a gallery of figures, each harbors a not-so-secret desire to profit from Semyon's tragic fate. The comically bleak view of human nature in Parker's narrative was directly derived from the original source material, *The Suicide*, by Soviet playwright Nikolai Erdman. (When it premiered in Russia in 1928, *The Suicide* so offended Stalin that the work was banned and Erdman was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30 ►

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A-LIST

A Cruel World
requires dark humor.



CHARLES GORRILL

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

exiled.) Rather than shying away from the piece's absurdist perspective, Parker amplifies the ridiculous scenario, ensuring a cathartic supply of gallows humor. Directed by Andrew Chambers, this much anticipated new production from Theatre Pro Rata features Derek Meyer in the lead role of Semyon with a supporting cast consisting of Elizabeth Efteland, Katie Kaufmann, Jim Ramlet, Ben Tallen, and Edwin Strout. 7:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, plus Monday, March 13; 3 p.m. Sunday, March 26. \$14-\$41 sliding scale at the door. 2303 Kennedy St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-548-1380.

Through March 26 —BRAD RICHASON

ART/GALLERY

PATTERNS OF DIALOGUE

FORM + CONTENT GALLERY

In 2009, Clarence Morgan and Howard Oransky, two venerable Twin Cities artists whose focus is strong, graphic patterning, shared a lively exhibition. They're doing it again, and this time the show includes a range of work exploring ideas about rhythm, structure, imagery, and experience. Oransky's oils feature lines in space that curl with the delicacy of fine hair. Morgan's collages on paper — enlivened with acrylic, ink, and colored pencil — layer form and color in dense compositions. Both artists' collections have a kinetic quality that lifts form and materiality right off the page. There will be an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 11. 210 N. Second St., Minneapolis; 612-436-1151. Through April 8 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE

TUESDAY 3.14

ART/LECTURES

INSIGHTS DESIGN LECTURE SERIES

WALKER ART CENTER

What happens when someone who is colorblind pursues a career in illustration? If you're Andy Rementer, your work is remarkably colorful, with bold blues, banana yellows, and bubble-gum pinks. The painter and illustrator also brings a healthy dose of humor to his creations, which include postage stamps ironically starring long-distance online lovers, a comic book that is actually a furniture catalog, and a series chronicling the dating disasters of a lonely frog. He'll be talking about his career this Tuesday as part of the Walker Art Center's Insights Lecture Series. The talks kicked off last week with a chat with Google artist Rob Giampietro. Next week, Clara Balaguer and Kristian Henson, co-founders of the Office of Culture & Design/Hardworking Goodlooking, will discuss their efforts showcasing artists and authors in developing countries. The series concludes with Richard Turley, whose edgy artistic visions can be seen in Bloomberg Businessweek magazine, on MTV, and at Wieden + Kennedy. If you can't swing ticket fees, fear not: The Walker will be streaming each talk live on Facebook. 7 p.m. Tuesdays. \$24 per lecture; \$72 series package. 1750 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-375-7600. Through March 28 —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

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NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MUTANTS

Logan is no traditional superhero movie



Hugh Jackman stars as Logan/Wolverine

BEN ROTHSTEIN

BY MICHAEL NORDINE

The first hint is the title. There's never been a Batman movie named *Bruce*, a Spider-Man film called *Peter*. In this supposed final chapter — “supposed” because comic-book series never truly end — the mutant formerly known as Wolverine has more yesterdays than tomorrows and is as haunted by the past as he is uncertain of the future.

So if the most famous of the X-Men rarely gets called by his mutant name these days, it's because *Logan* rarely functions as a traditional superhero movie.

Holed out near the U.S.-Mexico border, Logan (Hugh Jackman — who else?) is keeping a low profile as a limo driver under yet another assumed identity. Old habits die hard, of course, and so the

film begins with an explosion of violence that instantly earns its rare R rating. If ever you wanted to know what it would actually look like when Wolverine impales a low-level baddie's face with those claws of his, *Logan* would like to reward you for your patience.

Logan's out-of-the-way hideout is also home to Professor X (Patrick Stewart) and Caliban (Stephen Merchant), perhaps the least imposing mutant we've ever seen: His powers are seemingly limited to an aversion to sunlight and the ability to track others of his kind. Their domestic malaise is interrupted by the arrival of a little girl who doesn't speak but does have dangerous powers and a coterie of bad guys on her trail.

No new mutants have been born in some 25 years, making this newcomer special in a way that even Logan can't claim to be. “Maybe we were God's

mistake,” he says of their plight. Taking place in a world where many of our worst fears have come true — it's hotter, it's overpopulated, and a passing reference suggests that tigers have gone extinct — James Mangold's film aspires to the likes of *Children of Men* and even *Shane*, which is directly invoked several times over. It doesn't reach those lofty heights, but *Logan*'s unconventional ambition is refreshing in a genre whose movies usually exist solely to set up the next sequel.

Xavier, salty in his old age and having fun with the role in a way he's never been allowed to before, is as sagacious as ever. The father/son dynamic we see between him and Logan both lightens the mood and raises the stakes — the Professor has been sedated for years now, as the combination of his deteriorating mind and his unmatched psychic powers is

LOGAN

directed by James Mangold
now playing, area theaters

potentially catastrophic. He urges our conflicted hero to ferry the young girl to safety, knowing it might be the last mission they go on together.

With unkempt gray hair and bloodshot eyes, Logan reluctantly accepts. Before, his world-weariness often seemed an overreaction to what actually took place in these movies, a comic-book affectation meant to appeal to angst-ridden adolescents. Here it finally feels like the proper response to the world around him and to the person he's become. In previous X-Men films, you were likely to forget Wolverine's real name; here, you might find yourself forgetting Logan's mutant name. **C**

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A GREAT BIG WORLD
 3/28 8PM
 MUSIC: 9PM
STUDIO B
 SKYWAY THEATRE

ILIZA
 THE CONFIRMED KILLS TOUR
 4/1 7:30PM
 MUSIC: 7:30PM
SKYWAY THEATRE

NETSKY
 KASPER B2B EASYRIDER
 KODIAK PARALAX
 4/1 10PM
SKYWAY THEATRE

BEAR GRILLZ
 THE VOID 2017 TOUR
 4/8 8PM
SKYWAY THEATRE

DADA LIFE
 4/21 9PM
SKYWAY THEATRE

CASHMERE CAT
 4/28 8PM
THE LOFT
 SKYWAY THEATRE

THE MAINE
 5/8 DOORS: 6:30PM MUSIC: 7:30PM
SKYWAY THEATRE

SOMO THE ANSWERS TOUR
 5/12 DOORS: 7PM MUSIC: 8PM
SKYWAY THEATRE

WALE
 5/20 DOORS: 7PM MUSIC: 8PM
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3/09 THR BLACKOUT: SUBTRONICS & SYMBIOTIC
3/10 FRI HARD ELECTRONIC: ART OF FIGHTERS, UNEXIST
3/11 SAT ALIKIBA
3/11 SAT DIRTY AUDIO W/ KANDY, HOPSTEADY
3/18 SAT FILTH FILES 9: PONICZ, BOOGIE T, BOARCROK
3/23 THR CHOP DROP: CROWELL B2B CODD DUBZ
3/24 FRI BARE NOIZE, RAY VOLPE, SPOCK
3/25 SAT SAN HOLO
3/30 THU NATHANIEL KNOWS
4/15 SAT UNLIKE PLUTO
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WAKE-UP CALL

Savage Umbrella revisits sexism in the Victorian era



DAN NORMAN

BY JAY GABLER

Kate Chopin's 1899 novel *The Awakening* is a feminist classic about a woman who becomes painfully aware of just how impossible it is for those of her gender to live and love freely.

Savage Umbrella adapted the novel into an enthralling 2010 play, with both script and direction by Laura Leffler-McCabe. The company is now re-staging its *Awakening* at the Southern in a production that retains many of the original show's strengths and adds a new dimension of physical theater.

Emily Dussault, who played a minor character in the 2010 production, now has the leading role of Edna Pontellier, a Louisiana woman whose husband (Seth K. Hale) focuses his attention on a prospering business career. That leaves Edna with plenty of space and time to dally with the gregarious Robert (Nick Wolf), a friend who loves her but resists the opportunity to embark on a dead-end affair. Another admirer, Alcee (Mike Swan), doesn't have such scruples.

Leffler-McCabe's great achievement is to keep this drama from going over the top: Instead of flashy confrontations and contrived crises, she shows us that these characters' privilege (or lack thereof) is more salient than their morality. It's an unflinching look that avoids demonizing these characters — all have cards to play, but the deck is stacked. Edna's confidante Mademoiselle Reisz (Alexis Clarksean) is unambiguously portrayed as gay, adding a dimension of intersectionality that was

THE AWAKENING

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1420 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis
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much more oblique in the novel.

Dussault, a busy and consistently impressive actor, has never been better than she is here, sweeping us along on her character's tragic journey of self-realization even as she maintains the dignified poise that's so crucial to establishing Edna as a woman her peers can't help but admire. Her suitors, as played by Wolf and Swan, make for a kind of Luke-and-Han duo: one big-hearted and a little dopey, the other self-absorbed but undeniably sexy. (It's all about those fin de siècle sideburns.)

As previously, Candace Emberley's original music (performed live by an instrumental trio, with interstitial singing by the cast) anchors a sumptuous production design that envelops the audience in the play's intoxicating Southern setting. The set is much more minimal this time around, with actors using their bodies to suggest the literal and metaphorical waters in which these characters swim.

While this *Awakening* doesn't quite have the punch of the previous production (losing, rather than gaining, momentum through the second act), it's a compelling re-imagining of an outstanding play. As you walk out of this subtle and powerful show, it's painful to realize that when it comes to blatant displays of sexism, our current president is even less restrained than the cad in a Victorian melodrama. **C**



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KATHRYN STERNER

29, FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR
AT WINSOME GOODS

What are you wearing?
Winsome Goods SS17.

Describe your style:
Simple, neutral, and slightly androgynous.

Where do you like to shop?
Hazel & Rose, Parc Boutique, Cliché, BlackBlue.

What's your personal style quirk?
I get really excited and hooked on a few items at a time and I wear them constantly. I have absolutely no problem wearing something a few days in a row.



LUIS CRUZ

29, VISUAL MERCHANDISING

What are you wearing?
Calvin Klein boots, Levi's jeans, Gucci belt, Uniqlo turtleneck, Zara blazer.

Describe your style:
Classic with a twist.

Where do you like to shop?
Love mixing basics from Uniqlo with key accessories from Gucci or Del Toro shoes, for example.

What's your personal style quirk?
It's all about the shoes.



MADI REIMER

23, MODEL & MARKETING COORDINATOR

What are you wearing?
Zara bell sleeve sweater, Levi's 501 ankle crop, Red Wing Harriet boots, Forever 21 coat.

Describe your style:
Feminine and timeless but trendy, with a dash of the '70s.

Where do you like to shop?
Zara, Parc Boutique, the Golden Rule, finding random gems online.

What's your personal style quirk?
I enjoy pieces that are simple but have a unique aspect to them.



WALE AGBOOLA

28, VISUAL SPECIALIST, PHOTOGRAPHER

What are you wearing?
GiCapri overcoat, Norse Project shirt from BlackBlue, Levi's pants, Gucci shoes.

Describe your style:
My style is quite simple, effortless, and classic with a European fit. It reflects my experiences and travels.

Where do you like to shop?
Robert Sheie @MensWearMarket, BlackBlue, ASOS, Askov Finlayson, Mango, Nordstrom.

What's your personal style quirk?
Loafers, can't do without them.

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MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

Hippo Campus cement their status as one of Minnesota's hottest young bands with their debut album



Hippo Campus take over the First Avenue Mainroom this weekend.

ALICE BAXLEY

BY ERIK THOMPSON

Hippo Campus sure set a high bar for themselves. The Woodbury upstarts sold out a two-night stand at First Avenue's Mainroom before anyone had even heard their full-length debut. But that since-released LP, *Landmark*, more than fulfills the promise of their first two EPs, expanding on the vibrant, riff-fueled sound that initially caught listeners' attention while adding unexpected flourishes and exploring new sonic routes.

Over afternoon tea and a steady stream of newly Spotify'd Prince songs at the Bad Waitress, guitarist/vocalist Nate Stocker and bassist Zach Sutton opened up about the recording process behind their new album and the flurry of activity and industry attention that preceded it.

"After the EPs came out, and we finished touring, it was finally like, 'OK, time for an album,'" says Sutton. "Then we did what we knew how to do, which was just write a bunch of songs and then go from there."

Rather than cherry-picking the best stuff from their two well-received EPs,

Bashful Creatures and *South*, the group was determined to capture the sound of who they are now. After all, Sutton and Stocker, along with singer/guitarist Jake Luppen and drummer Whistler Allen, are a few years older and wiser than the teenagers who first started on this wild ride back in 2014.

"Those old songs have been with us since literally the beginning of the band," Sutton says. "Bringing those songs onto the new album would be like asking an 80-year-old to come climb a mountain with us. 'You're exhausted. You can just rest now.'"

"Writing is something that we need to do, and that we love to do," Stocker adds. "Because we write so much, we get tired of everything old really quickly."

To handle these new songs, Hippo Campus sought out a new producer. After working with Low's Alan Sparhawk on the EPs, the group switched up their approach for the full-length and brought in BJ Burton, whose work with Bon Iver, James Blake, Lizzo, and Poliça has made him the go-to producer/engineer in the upper Midwest. Burton not only texturized their sound,

he challenged their previous methods of songwriting and recording.

"BJ's method is that you demo, and then you throw everything you can think of, anything in the studio at it, and whatever sticks, sticks," explains Sutton. "The biggest change and learning process for me was letting go of old ideas, even if it was the same song. We go into it with a song sounding a certain way, but then we'd take out the verse, take out that melody, and put this here instead. There was a lot of time spent pouting — at least I was pouting — like, 'No, that's a good part. It has to be in there. That's not how we wrote it.' But as painful as it was, eventually I learned to let old ideas go and be open to experimenting."

With the confidence of early success and a few years of industry experience under their belt, Hippo Campus take bold chances with their sound on *Landmark*, achieving an assurance and polish on its 13 songs that most bands search for their entire careers.

"I feel like the new record is less bouncy compared to our older stuff, and probably different from what people are expecting.

It's a different path," Stocker admits. "It's a bit slower, and I think most of it was influenced by our 'go, go, go, go' mentality when we're touring. And then hitting a brick wall as soon as we came home and just slowing down. So we started writing a lot of slower songs, and there's a lot of heavier vibes on the record. The entire time, it didn't feel like we were doing anything unnatural, which is kind of all we wanted to do on the new record."

The group recorded, mixed, and tracked portions of the album in a trio of prestigious Minnesota recording studios — Flowers, Pachyderm, and Terrarium — to supplement the initial recordings they made at the Sonic Ranch in El Paso, Texas, their first bona fide destination recording experience. "A wild peyote trip in a desert kind of recording studio," says Sutton with a laugh.

Burton, whom the band describes as being like a brother to them, helped smooth out the transition to such a big studio and quell any pressure the group felt surrounding their full-length debut. "As soon as we got in the studio, things really loosened up," says Sutton. "It's crazy how well we meshed as people and friends, and creatively he really challenged us."

The album art, by their high school friend David Kramer, is reminiscent of David Hockney and has a deep sense of significance for the band.

"The cover is a graphic illustration of our rehearsal space," explains Stocker. "All of the items in the room are representative of the songs on the album. The calendar represents 'Monsoon,' the tree outside is 'Boyish,' and the boxing gloves symbolize 'Buttercup.' And that room itself is a major landmark for us, and we wanted to pay tribute to that. It's like the most relevant thing in our lives. Spending all that time writing in that room, it's where it all started. From the beginning, the band started there."

To bolster the connection between the band and their supportive hometown fans, Hippo Campus debuted their new songs in a series of intimate local events. They performed the new album in its entirety at Icehouse, put on a stripped-down set at Electric Fetus, and held a small listening

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MUSIC


party at Urban Bean, all to gradually ease their new material out into the world.

"It was less about the album at that point, and more about community and having people come and listen to something that is a reflection of where we are together, as a group of people," says Stocker. "That was really rewarding for us, to finally let the album take its first breath in public."

The day after our conversation, Hippo Campus embarked on a U.S. tour, a journey that will bring them back home this week-

end for their two-night stand at First Ave. The experience is sure to only strengthen the bond between the band members.

"We try to live in the moment, I suppose," Stocker says of any worries the band has about the future. "It's only ever us — right here, right now. And we're not trying to be stagnant. Just keep growing, and keep changing."

"We love each other," says Sutton proudly. "We've likened it to being brothers, as opposed to just friends. We're family. It's blood now." 

CRITICS' PICKS

JENS LEKMAN

FINE LINE MUSIC CAFE, WEDNESDAY 3.8
 Not long ago, Jens Lekman found himself in an intense songwriting slump. The witty Gothenburg indie-pop maestro submitted a near-finished album to his label in 2014 and was surprised to learn that no one there was much impressed. Lekman recovered by putting himself through a sort of songwriting boot camp in 2015: He resolved to release one song every week for the entire year and ultimately completed his mission. It's good to have him back. An inventive songwriter, Lekman has always used varied instrumentation to create a bubbly, vibrant sound, and now he's also grown more stylistically adventurous. His latest album, *Life Will See You Now*, has elements of everything from disco to calypso, and the sharp storytelling and specificity of the lyrics make it an improvement over his relatively anonymous 2012 album, *I Know What Love Isn't*. In fact, it's Lekman's best record since his 2007 breakthrough, *Night Falls Over Kortedala*. Lisa/Liza, aka Maine songwriter Liza Victoria, opens. 18+. 8 p.m. \$20-\$35. 318 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8100. —MICHAEL MADDEN

memoir, *Just Kids*. But *Horses* is still her most stunning achievement, the first full-length indication that she possessed the artistic vision to revolutionize rock music in the '70s and beyond. 6:30 p.m. \$40-\$55. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-624-2345. —MICHAEL MADDEN

BALLAKE SISSOKO AND VINCENT SEGAL

CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER, THURSDAY 3.9

Renowned kora master Ballake Sissoko is the guy non-African artists like Taj Mahal or Sting turn to when they want to integrate that harp-like Malian instrument into their music. Sissoko first teamed up with Vincent Segal, a French cellist with a trip-hop background, in 2009, and their first recording, *Chamber Music*, was so well-received that a sequel seemed inevitable. *Musique de Nuit*, released in 2015, is an even wider-ranging collection. Unlike *Chamber Music*, which used guest musicians, the newer album is strictly a collection of duets between Sissoko and Segal, and its strength lies in the way each artist moves toward the other's tradition — Sissoko's work has a stately delicacy that wouldn't be out of place in a European concert hall, while Segal can rough up his instrument to approximate a Malian fiddle. All ages. 7 p.m. \$25/\$30. 416 Cedar Ave. S., Minneapolis; 612-338-2674. —KEITH HARRIS

ATMOSPHERE

PALACE THEATRE, FRIDAY 3.10

Is any active Minnesota music act more fit to play the first show at the freshly renovated Palace Theatre than Atmosphere? The indie-rap duo of MC Slug and producer Ant made their full-length debut in 1997 with *Overcast!* and eventually broke through with 2002's more widely acclaimed *God Loves Ugly*, which highlighted the influence of Charles Bukowski on Slug's lyrics. Atmosphere albums would vary in quality over the next decade, but last year's *Fishing Blues* was their best LP since *When Life*

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MUSIC CRITICS' PICKS

Gives You Lemons, You Paint That Shit Gold in 2008. "Besos," "The Shit That We've Been Through," and "When the Lights Go Out" (featuring DOOM and Kool Keith) rank among their best songs of the decade, and on "Pure Evil," which addresses police brutality, Slug offers some of his most vivid and meaningful lyrics ever, rapping from an officer's perspective. With Sims, deM atlis, Lady Midnight, and DJ Shannon Blowtorch. 18+. 8 p.m. \$25. 17 7th Pl. W., St. Paul; 651-266-8989. —MICHAEL MADDEN

CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH

7TH ST. ENTRY, SATURDAY 3.11
Hype can cut both ways. These Brooklyn/Philadelphia indie rockers became the most celebrated newcomers of 2005 after their self-titled debut drew a gushy rave from the tastemakers at Pitchfork. A showcase for the yelpy charm with which frontman Alec Ounsworth rode atop melodic undulations of synth and guitar, *Clap Your Hands Say Yeah* also felt significant from an industry standpoint — it was independently released with no record label support. Yet just two years later, the band's solid follow-up, *Some Loud Thunder*, was met with the kind of reserved praise that's so akin to indifference it can hurt a reputation more than the most vicious pan. CYHSY abandoned plans for a third album a couple years later and went on hiatus, but they reformed in 2011 and they've chugged along sporadically since. On the band's latest album, *The Tourist*, their swelling grooves and excitable vocals sound mellowed but unchastened. With Steady Holiday. 18+. 8 p.m. \$20. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —KEITH HARRIS

THE JAYHAWKS

PALACE THEATRE, SATURDAY 3.11
After Atmosphere rechristen St. Paul's newly renovated Palace Theatre on Friday night, they'll hand the stage over to another group of beloved Minneapolis veterans for the reborn venue's second show. Singer/guitarists Mark Olson and Gary Louris briefly reconciled a few years back but have since fallen out once more, and the band's ninth album, *Paging Mr. Proust*, released last year, was recorded by founding members Louris and bassist Marc Perlman along with keyboardist Karen Grotberg and drummer Tim O'Reagan — the lineup that first recorded together on *Tomorrow the Green Grass* in 1995. Co-produced by R.E.M.'s Peter Buck, *Paging Mr. Proust* features some of the band's strongest melodies and harmonies yet, starting with an opener that recalls the Byrds and peaking with the standout track "Quiet Corners & Empty Spaces." The Cactus Blossoms and the Cloak Ox open. 18+. 7 p.m. \$30-\$50. 17 Seventh Pl. W., St. Paul; 651-266-8989. —MICHAEL MADDEN

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SUNDAY, MARCH 12
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7pm • Bar Stage • All Ages
Fort Defiance
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sat : march 11
7pm : trivia mafia presents
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10pm : the bad man (ep release), daisy
chains & flatwater mississippi

sun : march 12
2-5pm : dr sketchy's anti-art school
8pm : trivia mafia

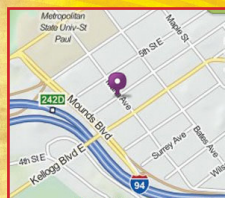
mon : march 13
8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : march 14
6-8pm : t.e.e. - tuesday early evening
8:30pm : 331 club and fair state brewing
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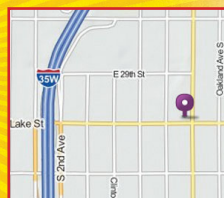
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Oral Argument

My wife thinks my dirty mouth
gave her an infection

My wife and I have a decent sex life. Pretty vanilla, but we're busy with two small kids and life in general, so I can't complain too much. About a year after having our second kid, I went down on my wife. As usual, we both enjoyed it greatly. Unfortunately, about a week later she got a yeast infection. She attributed the YI to the oral, and since then I am strictly forbidden from putting my mouth anywhere near her pussy. I understand that YI are no fun, painful, and embarrassing, but I've never heard of oral sex causing YI, although I realize I might be misinformed. How do I win back her trust to let me go down on her? No one is about to mistake me for Sting when it comes to my endurance during intercourse, so having the ability to pleasure her without penetration is important.

DIRTY MOUTH GUY



Dan Savage

"Yeast is not an STI," said ob-gyn Dr. Anika Denali Luengo. "Yeast (candida) is a normal denizen of the vagina, and an infection simply means there is an overgrowth of it on the vulva or in the vagina."

People are likelier to get a yeast infection—or likelier to experience yeast overpopulation, since yeast is a citizen of Vagina City—when they're on antibiotics, they have diabetes, or their immune system has taken a hit.

"Oral sex can be a slight risk factor in transmission of candida," said Dr. Denali Luengo, "but the frequency of candidiasis is not increased by the frequency of sex, so it may not happen next time. Also, if her symptoms developed one week later, it could have been pure coincidence."

A coincidence—that was my hunch when I read your letter, DMG.

"Luckily, they are easy to treat—over-the-counter miconazole or the single-dose pill fluconazole—and are basically just a nuisance and present no major health risks," said Dr. Denali Luengo.

I'm a straight-identified guy in my early 30s. I am married, but my wife lives in another part of the country and we're doing an open

relationship until she moves to live with me. Last weekend, I met a girl at a bar who ended up coming home with me, and she turned out to be a pre-op trans woman. I'd never been with a trans person before, so I decided to just roll with it and ended up having a pretty good time. Over the course of the weekend, I started to get the sense that she really liked me and maybe even considered me boyfriend material. I want to see her again, but I'm not really available for a serious relationship. Knowing the kind of unbelievable shit trans

people have to deal with, I feel like it would be unfair to string her along. She is not aware of my marital status. What should I do?

CAN'T THINK OF
FUNNY ACRONYM

O brave new world that has such straight-identified guys in it.

Anyway, CTOFA, here's what you should do: Get in a time machine and go be completely—what's the word?—oh right, go be completely straight with

this woman before you take her home from that bar. You're married and doing the LDR thing and the marriage is open and you're available for fun but nothing more.

No time machine? Then handle it the same way you would if you'd deceived some cis woman—excuse me, if you'd accidentally gotten some cis woman's hopes up by failing to mention the wife. Level with her and let the nips fall where they may. She might be angry or she might not give a wet squart (she may not be as interested as you think she is). If she accuses you of making up a wife because you don't want to date a trans woman, it shouldn't be hard to prove your wife—and your marriage—exists.

Finally, CTOFA, you say it would "be unfair to string her along" because of the "unbelievable shit trans people have to deal with." It would be unfair—it would be wrong—to string a cis woman along, too. Stringing people along is wrong, period.

mail@savagelove.net

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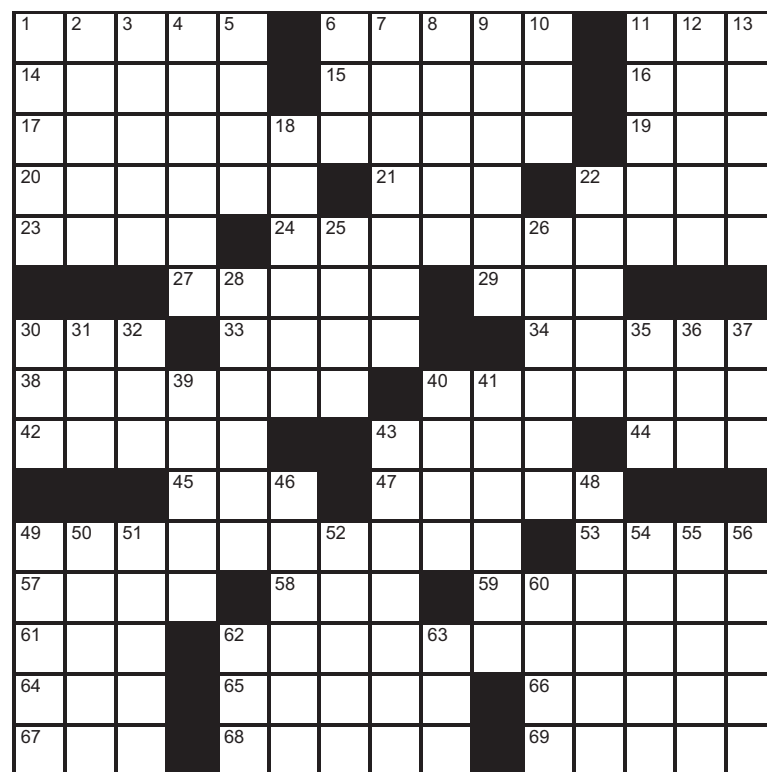


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- Outsider, to Hawaiians
- Overhaul of a cloverleaf?
- Mouths, in slang
- It can provide the big picture
- Chick ____
- Chef with a "Louisiana Real and

Rustic" cookbook

- Stat in sabermetrics
- Analgesic with a peppery sweet taste?
- "I meant tomorrow, duh!"
- With all the scenes
- TV actress Olstead
- Billhook relative
- "I'm out"
- Reeked

Down

- High-pitched flutes
- "So, if she weighs the same as ____, then she's made of wood" ("Monty Python and the Holy Grail")
- Carlo ____ ("The Godfather" bookie)
- Defrauds
- Dict. entry involving origins
- Test for M.A. seekers
- Brought back to Broadway
- Novelist Brookner
- Translate into English
- Member with a herd mentality
- Spreading vine
- "Hate to say this ..."
- Rise above, big time
- Racer Patrick
- Series with detective Mac Taylor
- Kindle Fire fodder
- Brit's school exam
- More stupendous
- Entries in

a cryptic: Abbr.

- "I've heard better"
- ReplayTV, for one
- Finsteraarhorn, e.g.
- Turo rental
- Blue ball
- Kicks out
- Travel in a sci-fi style
- Short and sweet wedding attendee
- Way too drunk jackass at a wedding, e.g.
- Singer Dion
- Shoelace hole
- Justice Kagan
- Copy
- Stunned
- Rapper Staples
- Play area?
- "Entourage" actor Jeremy
- Aerodynamic
- Crooner Bruno
- Gloomy fellow
- Alaska guess: Abbr.

Last Week's Answer



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